PICK OF THE LITTER
by: YURIKO SU
3
TOKYOPOP

Vol. 3
by
Yuriko Suda

TOKYOPOP®

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PICK OF THE LITTER

Yuriko Suda

Volume 3

Pick of the Litter Volume 3
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ISBN: 978-1-59816-821-1

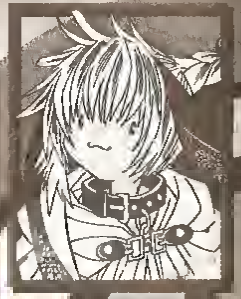
First TOKYOPOP printing: April 2008
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

Shii
Fourth son

He's easygoing and aloof, but he's quite the little schemer.

Mikasa
Third son

A loafer and Hiyokoya's biggest problem child. He's quite popular in the red-light district.



Futaba
Second son

A member of the mysterious Usa-mimi Clan with the ability to connect Yamato and Japan.

Konohana
Cousin

A capable girl who's a member of the Usa-mimi Clan. She doesn't have any magic, though.

Mio
[illegible]

Riku's father's cousin. He supports Hiyokoya on the management side of things.

Satsuki
Fifth son

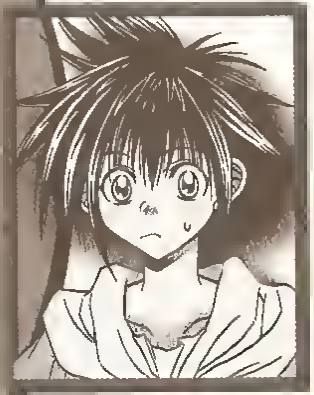
He's a few months older than Riku, and he's not so great at speaking Japanese.

Summary & Character Introductions

Riku Fukagawa is a middle school student whose family is missing, and who has no memories from before the age of ten. He was living a peaceful life, until one day some guys claiming to be his long-lost brothers from Yamato (a whole other world!) showed up. Since then, Riku divides his time between Japan and working part time at a general store called Hiyokoya that his brothers run in Yamato. His days are full of ups and downs. ♪♂♪

Ichiya
[illegible]

The young master of Hiyokoya. He is the oldest sibling and dotes on Riku.



Riku
Sixth son

In Japan, his name is Riku Fukagawa. He is a middle school student getting ready to take his high school entrance exams. He has a mysterious power that links him to holy spirits.

Saika

A holy spirit with enormous power. He's normally sealed inside a stone that's shaped like a beckoning cat. He syncs up with Riku to display various powers, but his true power is yet to be discovered.

I'M RIKU FUKAGAWA. I'M 15 YEARS OLD, AND A THIRD-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE RELATIVE, NOR DO I HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM BEFORE I WAS TEN
OR..
...SO I THOUGHT.
Change to the summer uniform
...AM THE YOUNGEST..
IN TURNS OUT THAT I..
HI YO KO YA
...OF SIX BROTHERS THAT MANAGE THE HIYOKOYA GENERAL STORE IN YAMATO— ANOTHER WORLD.

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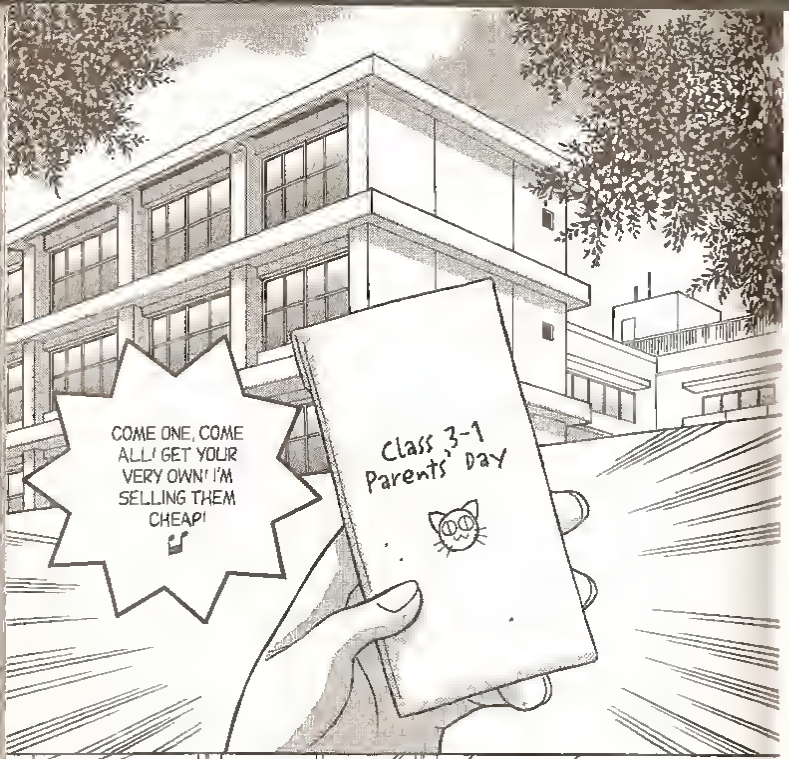
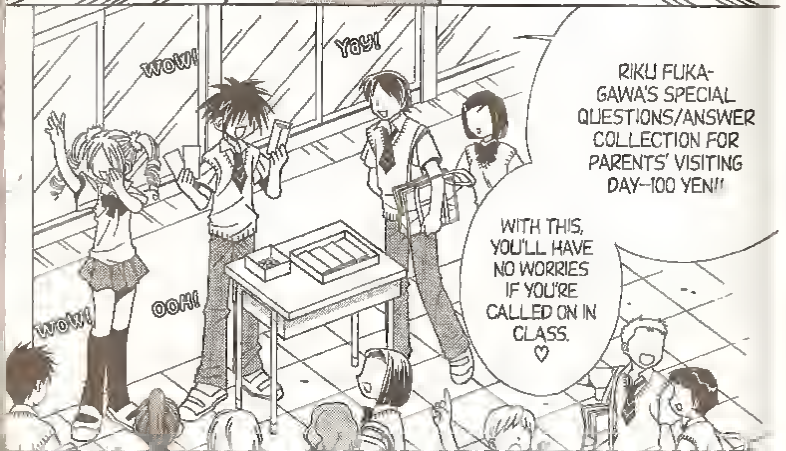
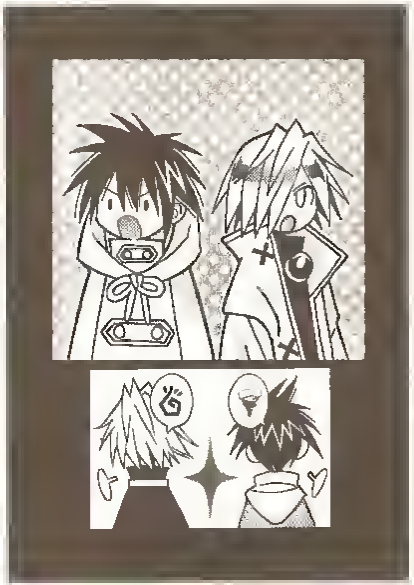
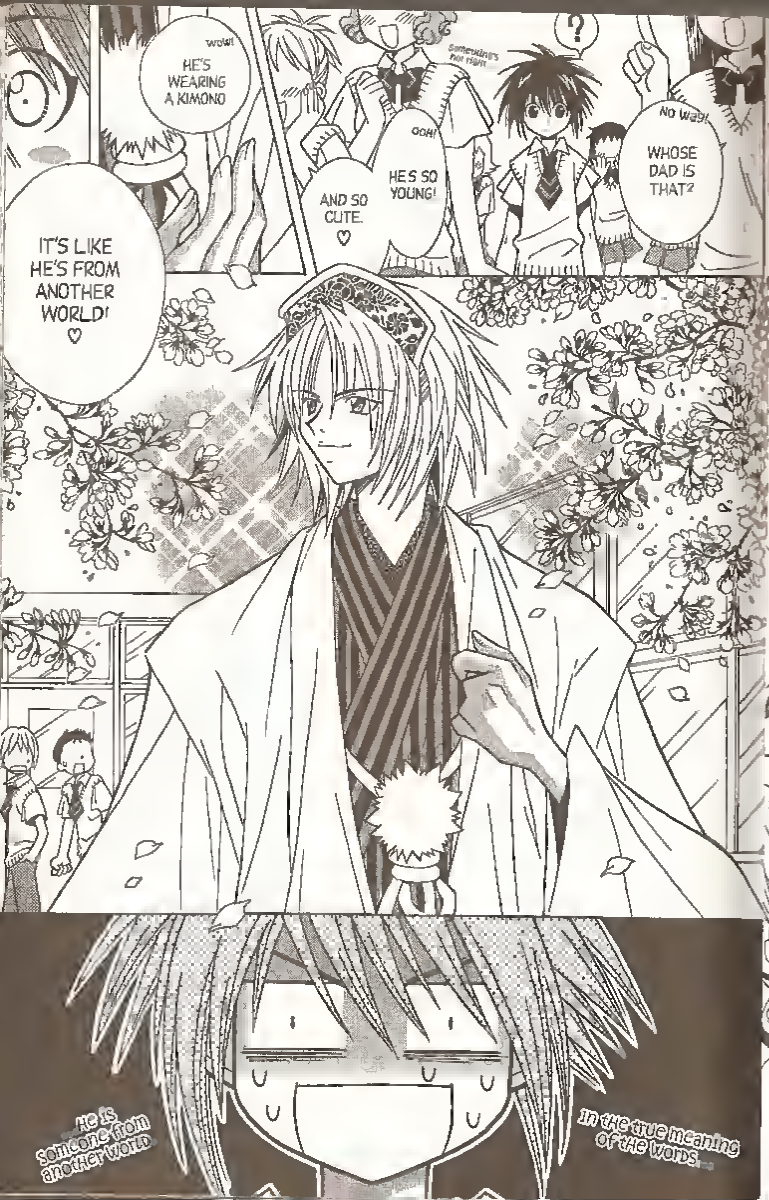
Let's Come to School!
HIYO KOYA
5 zeni


COME ONE, COME ALL! GET YOUR VERY OWN! I'M SELLING THEM CHEAP!
Class 3-1 Parents' Day


WOW!
YAY!
RIKU FUKAGAWA'S SPECIAL QUESTIONS/ANSWER COLLECTION FOR PARENTS' VISITING DAY—100 YEN!!
WITH THIS, YOU'LL HAVE NO WORRIES IF YOU'RE CALLED ON IN CLASS. ♡
WOW!
OOH!

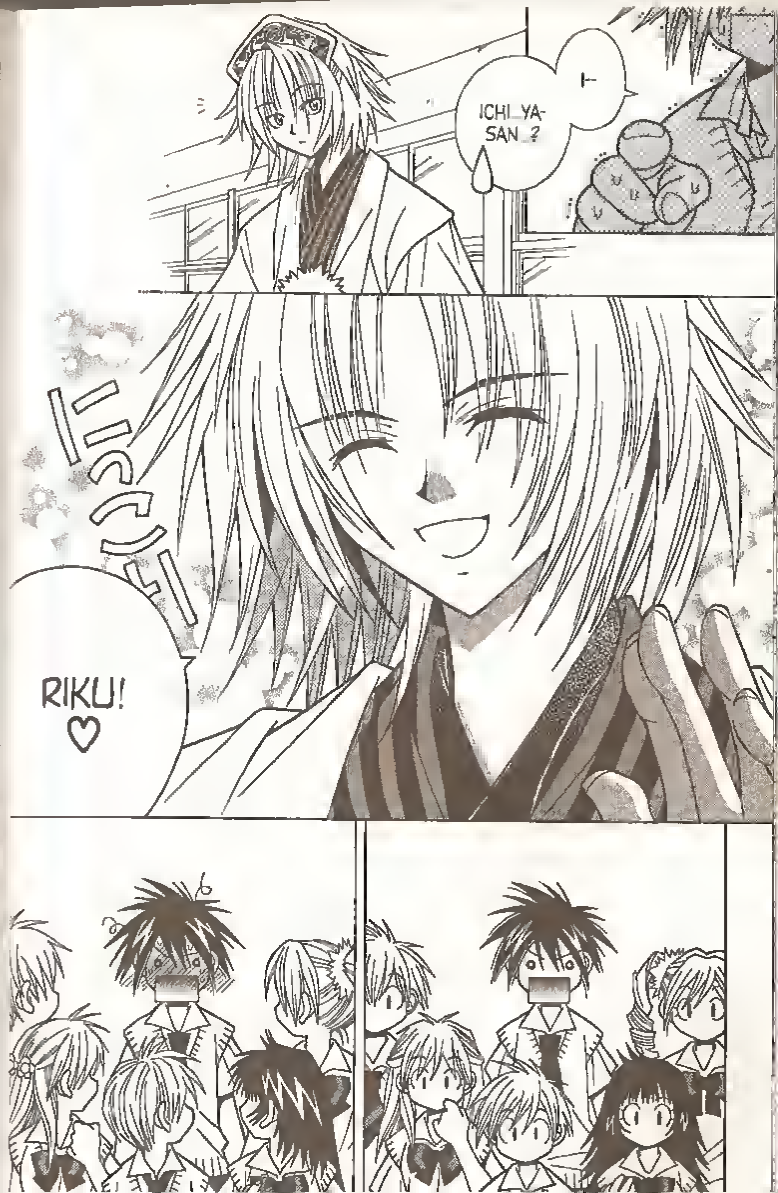


That's right
TODAY IS PARENTS' DAY AT SCHOOL.
THE PARENTS' DAY AIDES WERE A REALLY GOOD THINKING, RIKU
Yeah, well
AS FOR ME...
NO ONE'S COMING SO I CAN RELAX.
Thanks for your help, Mizuno.
NOW I CAN AFFORD TO FEED THE CATS THIS MONTH
Here's one for you Mizuno
Class 3-1 Parents' Day
Thanks
OH, YEAH.
RIKU DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HIS FAMILY IS, HUH?
SHOW YOUR PARENTS HOW SMART YOU ARE
COME AND PICK ONE UP!
3-1
TUG
SORRY, ALL SOLD OUT.
JUST DROP YOUR MONEY IN THE BOX.
NOW, NOW. PUSHING!
THEY'RE DIVIDED BY CLASS, SO DON'T GET THE WRONG ONE!
EVERY YEAR, I'VE SPENT THIS DAY AS THE ONE PERSON WITHOUT A CARE - AN OUTSIDER
SHE'S SO EXCITED SHE EVEN BOUGHT A NEW OUTFIT. IT'S AWFUL.
MY MOM
WHO'S COMING TO SEE YOU TODAY, MIZUNO?


WOW!
HE'S WEARING A KIMONO
Somebody's dad, right...
OOH!
HE'S SO YOUNG!
AND SO CUTE. ♡
No way!
WHOSE DAD IS THAT?
?
IT'S LIKE HE'S FROM ANOTHER WORLD! ♡
He is someone from another world...
In the true meaning of the words...

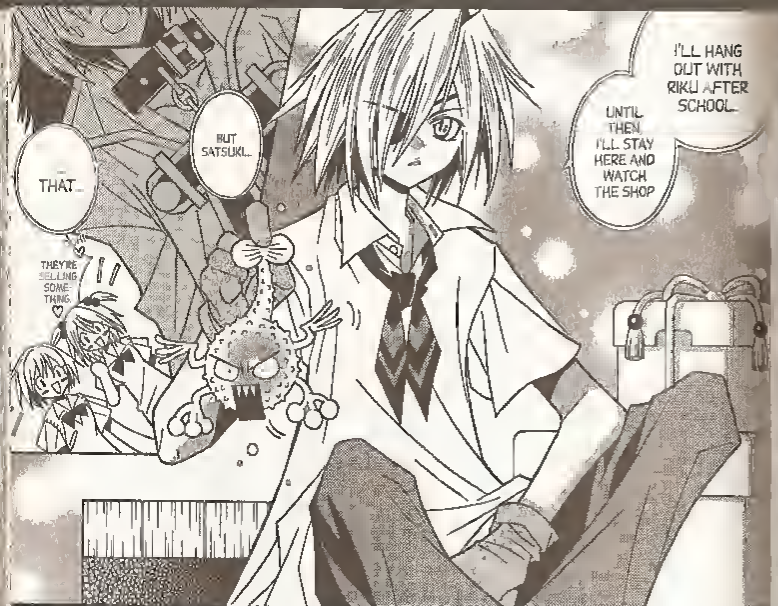
SOMEONE'S PARENT IS ALREADY WAITING IN THE HALL!
Hey!
CHECK IT OUT!
WHY DO THEY GET SO EXCITED ANYWAY?
UGH
YEAH MY MOM WENT TO THE SALON YESTERDAY TOO
WOW
So this is what parents are like.
LET'S GO SEE, RIKU!
mm
ガ
ドッ
IF IT'S MY MOM I'LL DIE!
Gasp!
They get the most excited award.
I BET WHOEVER'S PARENT THAT IS WISHES THEY COULD RUN AWAY!
WOW! ☆
IT'S PACKED

DEEP BOW
THANK YOU
FOR ALWAYS TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF OUR PRECIOUS RIKU
precious?!
ARE THESE YOUR CLASS-MATES?
RIKU?!
YOU KNOW THAT MAN?
PLEASE STAY FRIENDS
WITH R-2
AWAH
RIKU?


ICHI_YA-SAN_?
RIKU!

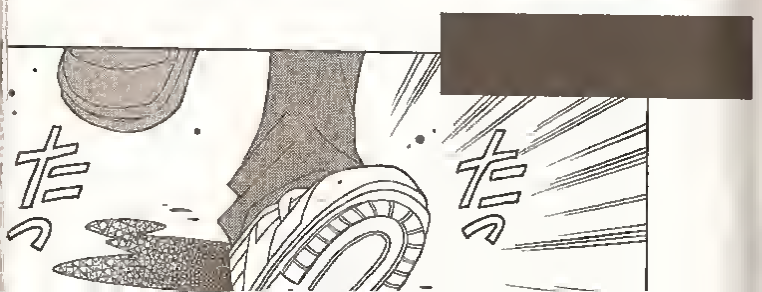
Junior Union Konohana
ALL OF MY OLDER BROTHERS (AND MY PARENTS)...
BUT EVERYONE'S BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING HERE TODAY
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
I'M SORRY IF I STARTLED YOU, RIKU.
WHAT DOES HE MEAN, EVERYONE?
UH-OH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "EVERYONE"?
DON'T TELL ME HE MEANS.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAD TO LEAVE KONOHANA HOME
OH! ☆ WELL, IT IS "PARENTS AND OLDER SIBLINGS" DAY, SO..

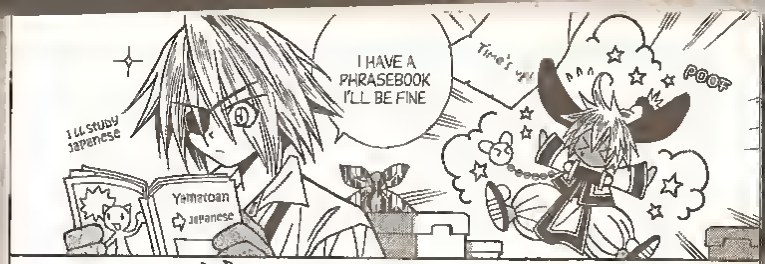
WHERE'D YOU GET AN EVENTS CALENDAR?!
OF COURSE!
Third Years Calendar of Events
IT'S PARENTS' DAY.
ANYONE..
..WOULD BE SURPRISED TO HAVE SOMEONE SHOW UP OUT OF THE BLUE!
BESIDES
I NEVER THOUGHT...
ICHIYA SAN WOULD COME.
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE AT SCHOOL ABOUT MY BROTHERS YET!
IT'S SO BIG
AND SO GREEN
THIS IS A NICE SCHOOL.
tweet tweet tweet
DON'T STAND THERE ALL REFRESHED LIKE THAT.
Gasp!
ICHIYA SAN..
WHEEZE
WHY ARE YOU HERE..?
MUFF!

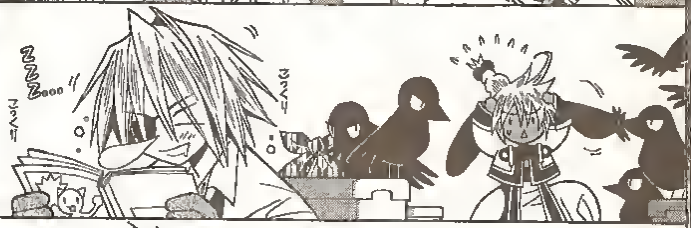

THAT...
THEY'RE SELLING SOMETHING
BUT SATSUKI...
I'LL HANG OUT WITH RIKU AFTER SCHOOL.
UNTIL THEN, I'LL STAY HERE AND WATCH THE SHOP

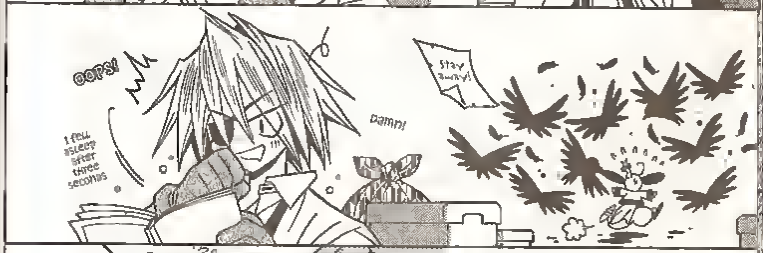
The bubbles for Japanese and Yamazaki are different apart on these two pages.

WE'LL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO GET IN THEIR WAY.
IT APPEARS THAT THE RUMORS OF EVERYONE AT HIYOKOYA COMING TO JAPAN..
WERE TRUE.
ARE THEY TRYING TO DO A GROUP SALE OR SOMETHING?
WE WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS!
HOW DARE THEY IGNORE THE MIGHTY ECHIGOYA?!
SNEAK
MYO?




I'LL STUDY JAPANESE
Yamatoan Japanese
I HAVE A PHRASEBOOK I'LL BE FINE
Time's up!
POOF


ZZZZ
Boon
PEEK!


OOPS!
I FELL ASLEEP AFTER THREE SECONDS
Damn!
Stay away!

DID YOU SEE THAT?
HE ALREADY LEFT?!
What the heck?
FUTABA?
WHA-?

I WAS GETTING MY HOPES UP
ばさ
ばさ
BLEH!
wait.
TCH!
OH. IT'S JUST FUTABA.
HEY, COME ON...
..MIKASA!
POOF☆
OH!
RIKU.
IC'S ME!
!!
A SCHOOL UNIFORM?
WHERE DID YOU..?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

AKI
HUFF
SATSUKI CAN'T SPEAK JAPANESE!
AND FUTABA'S BEEN ATTACKED BY CROWS AT THIS SCHOOL BEFORE.
HUFF
"EVERYONE SHOULD BE OUT PEDDLING UNTIL THE VISIT STARTS."
I can't leave them alone!
PED-DLING ...?
WILL THEY BE OKAY?
Speak of the devil!
KAAH!
KAAH!
KAAH!
A MURDER OF CROWS?! NOT GOOD!
DON'T TELL ME FUTABA?!
I have to help him..!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
LET ME HAVE SOME OF JAPAN'S TRASH TO EAT, TOO!
PUNT
PUNT
OUTTA THE WAY!
OUTTA THE WAY!
OOSH!

HUH, I'VE NEVER WORN THIS COLOR BEFORE.
IT SURE LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
HEH! HEH! HEH!
REALLY? MAYBE I'LL BUY IT.
THAT'LL BE 300 YEN
CREEP
CREEP
MYO!
NN?
CREEP
TCH
LURING THEM WITH MERCHANDISE DAMN THAT SHI!
That's not it
UWAAHH?!
What the--?!
?!

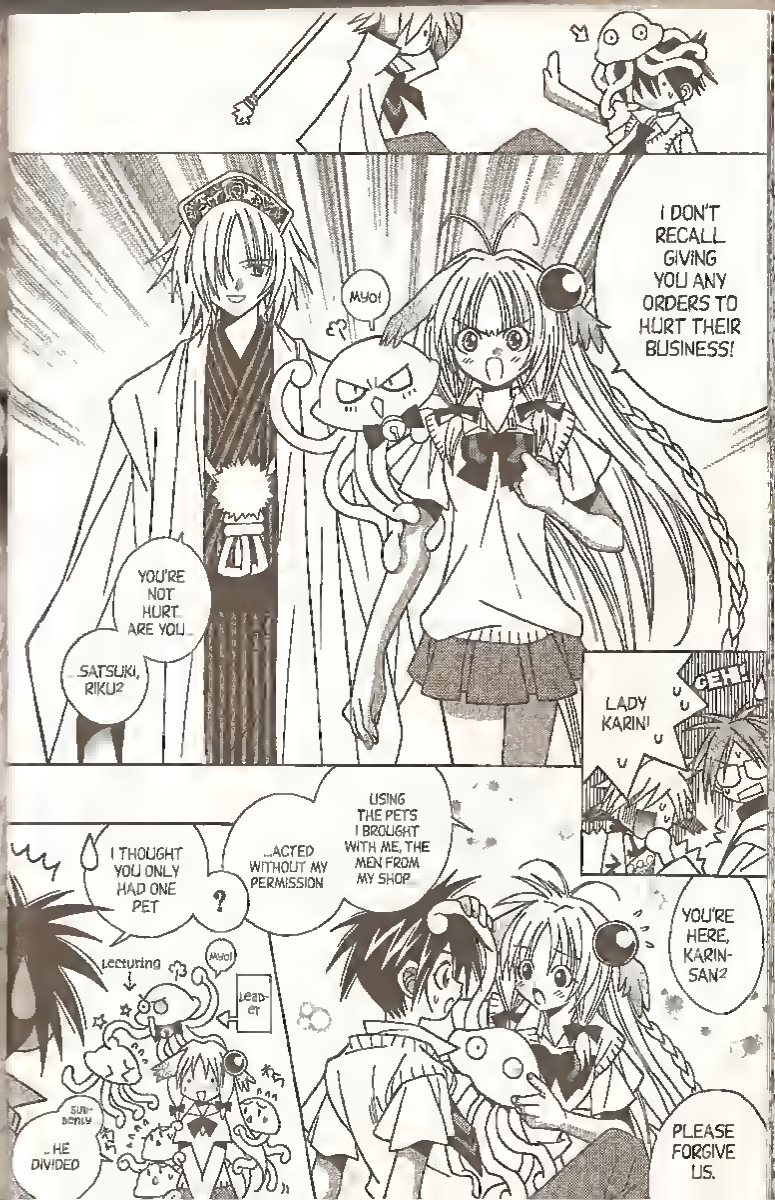
HEY, HEY, SHII-KUN!
I WANT ONE, TOO
Is this the mouth that made such a smart-ass comment?
LEGGO!
SO YOU'RE COSPLAYING AS A DELINQUENT WHO WAS HELD BACK A YEAR?
TO PICK UP SOME CHICKS
Got nothing else to do
EH!?
What about the class visit?
WELL
TODAY, I'LL WEAR THIS.
Operation: Crow of the Dark Goes School Uniform
MAYBE I'LL BUY ANOTHER
THIS LIPSTICK IS SUCH A COOL COLOR!
WOW!
SQUEAK!
HIII!
COOL!
THIS IS OUR NEWEST COLOR
WOW!
HOLD ON JUST A SECOND

MYUP
GOTCHA
?!
WELL, AREN'T YOU ENJOYING YOUR-SELVES
ふぅ
MYO!
MYUUU!
ぼーーぜん
KEH
KEH
KEH
KEH
KEH
KEH
ふぅ
YOU PUNKS?
MYA!

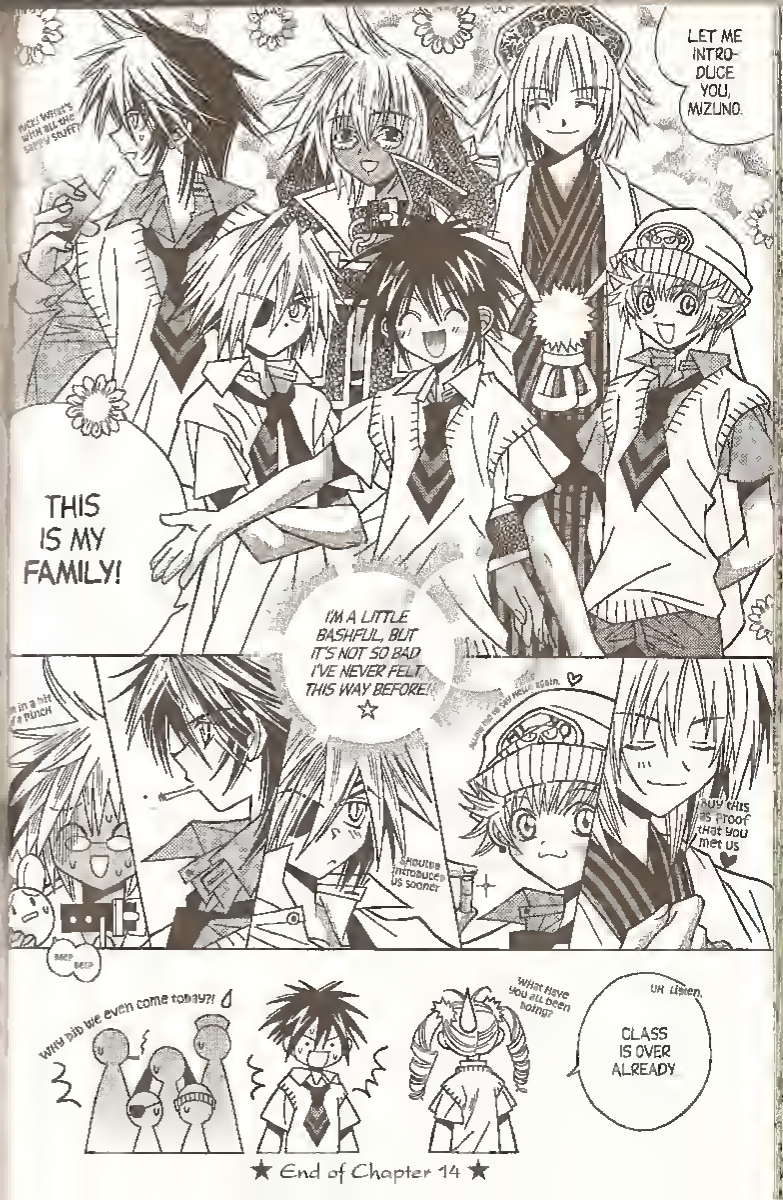
WHAT IS THAT?
SO
Gasp!
OH.. OH YEAH
OOHH!
HUP!
HUP!
HIIYUP!
AWESOME!
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM
IS THAT THE PET KARIN SAN BOUGHT AT HYOKOYA?
IS IT... HER?
NEVER MIND THAT!
AFTER HIM!
DAMN A KID SEES SOMETHING UNUSUAL AND GOES CHASING RIGHT AFTER IT ☆
HEY, WAIT!
RIKU!

GO ON, GUYS! LET'S TURN UP THE HEAT!
RIKU—!
UWAH!
STOP IT!!
BROTHERS FIGHTING? THAT'S NOT COOL
えちごや
えちごや
YOU SHOULD BE CLEANING UP YOUR PRECIOUS WARES INSTEAD ♡
ECHIGO-YA?!
!
SO KARIN-SAN REALLY IS INVOLVED...?
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE...?
I'LL CHOP YOU UP AND SELL YOU AS TODAY'S SPECIAL!!
SATSUKI!
UPH!
WAIT A SECOND!!
RIKU?!
WHY..?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO CHECK ON.
SORRY.
What are you doing?
WHAT'S THE MATTER..
What's this?
...HIYOKOYA?
WAH HA HA HA!
YOU THINK I CAN JUST SIT BACK WHILE THEY WRECK MY SHOP?!

I HEARD FROM ICHIYA-SAMA
...THAT TODAY IS PARENTS' VISITING DAY ♡
A lot worse
Hey, I had it...
How have you been running all over the place like that?!
-Satsuki, don't you think you don't pay enough attention
RIKU!
YOU OKAY?!
YOU MUST BE VERY LOVED, RIKU-SAN
KARIN-SAN
...EVEN MY OWN SHOP WAS CURIOUS ENOUGH TO SHOW UP
FOR ALL OF YOUR BROTHERS TO COME TO ANOTHER WORLD
?!
RIKU!
OH!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
. SO I'M A LITTLE CONFUSED.
BUT...
THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME...


I DON'T RECALL GIVING YOU ANY ORDERS TO HURT THEIR BUSINESS!
MYO!
YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU...
...SATSUKI, RIKU?
LADY KARIN!
GET-!
I THOUGHT YOU ONLY HAD ONE PET
?
...ACTED WITHOUT MY PERMISSION
USING THE PETS I BROUGHT WITH ME, THE MEN FROM MY SHOP...
Lecturing
MYO!
Lead-er
SUN-DENLY
...HE DIVIDED
YOU'RE HERE, KARIN-SAN?
PLEASE FORGIVE US.

Hiyokoya Store
. IN YAMATO, ANOTHER WORLD FAR FROM JAPAN
THE GENERAL STORE HIYOKOYA...
ぴぴん
すか
IT MAY BE ANOTHER WORLD...
..BUT THERE ARE STILL SUDDEN FIGHTS BETWEEN SIBLINGS ☆

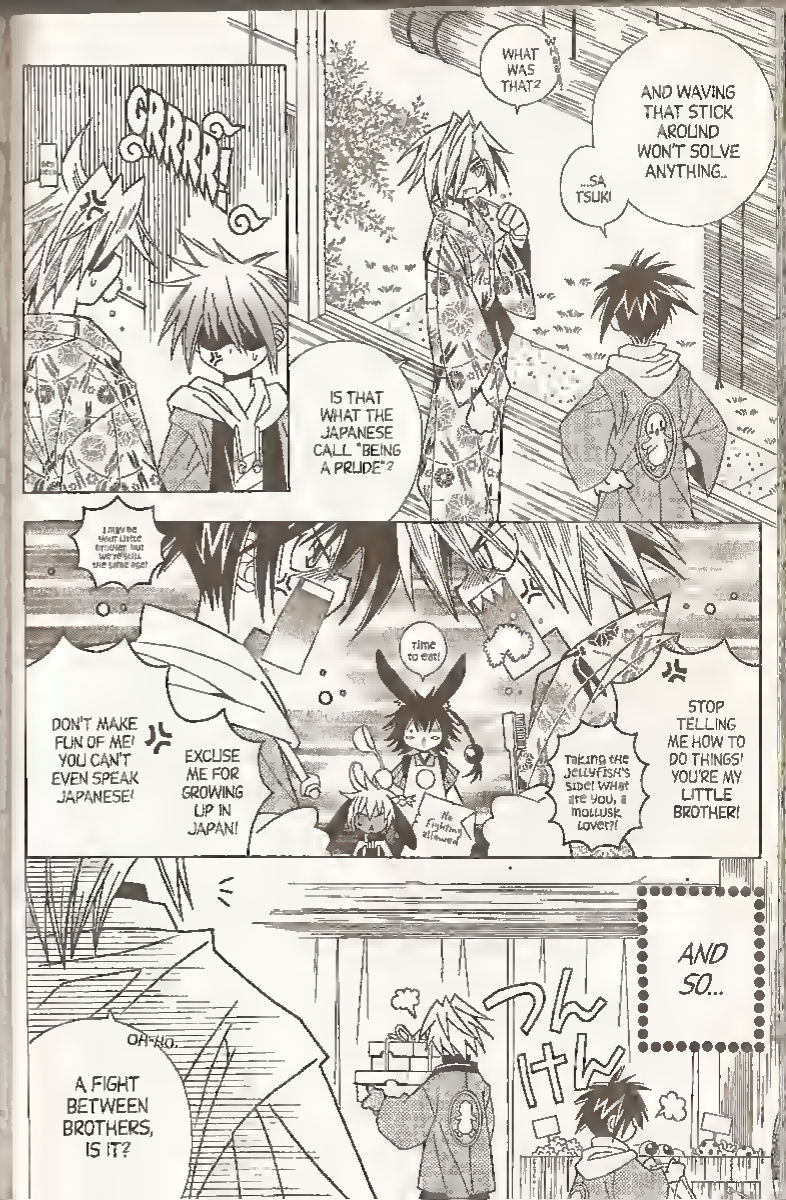

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU, MIZUNO.
THIS IS MY FAMILY!
I'M A LITTLE BASHFUL, BUT IT'S NOT SO BAD I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE! ☆
Why did we even come today?!
What have you all been doing?
UH Listen.
CLASS IS OVER ALREADY

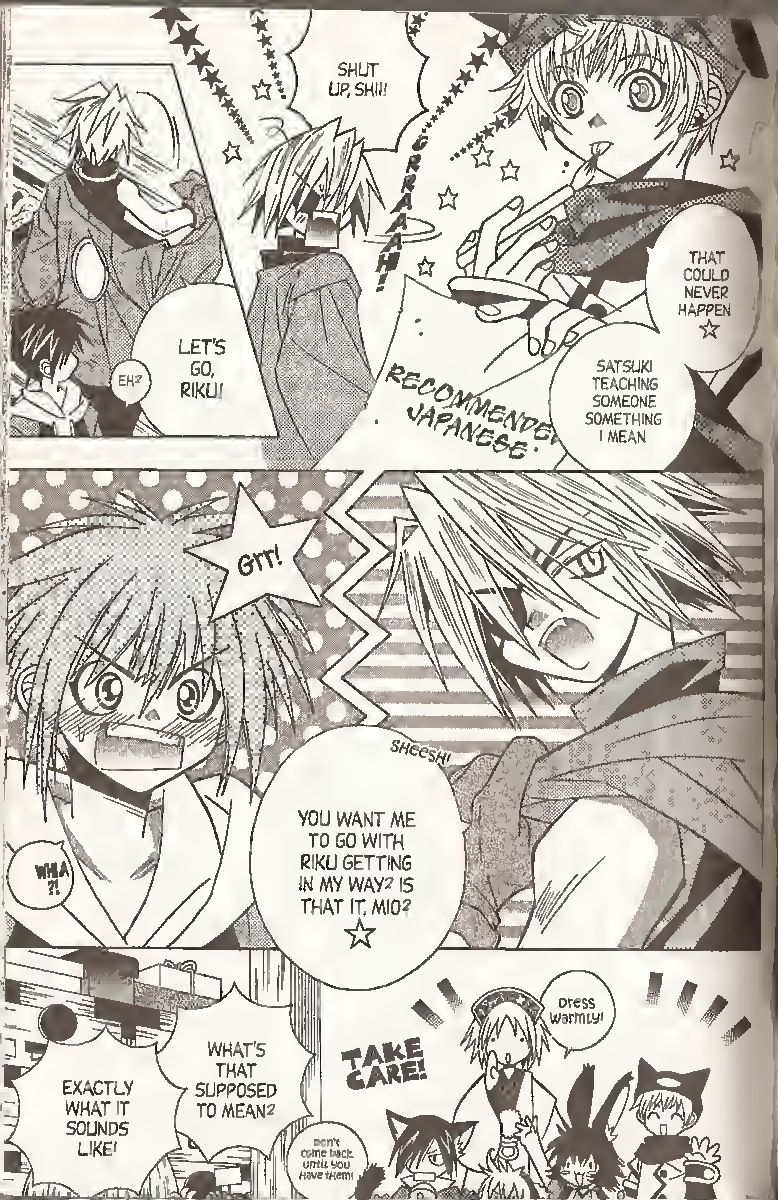
★ End of Chapter 14 ★

IT ALL STARTED WHEN...
UGH, YOU'RE SO NAIVE.
I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE THE GIRL'S PETS, OR WHAT.
HITTING THEM WON'T GET THE BROKEN MERCHANDISE BACK.
THOSE JELLYFISH NEED TWO OR THREE GOOD WHACKS ON THE HEAD
tweet
tweet
...WE TALKED ABOUT THE RIOT STARTED BY ECHIGOYA AT PARENTS' VISITING DAY.
☆

Chapter 1:
To Buy a Bug-Eating Flower

RIKU FROLICKING WITH HIS CATS, TEARS STREAMING DOWN HIS FACE.
Satsuki-chan Air me!
BUT NOW THEY'RE EVENLY MATCHED
BEFORE, RIKU WAS ALWAYS ON THE LOSING SIDE WHEN HE WAS UP AGAINST SATSUKI
A Poem, Huh?
ICHIYA-SAN
You Have grown Haven't you, Riku?
DON'T GET ALL MUSHY
scrr
WELL, NOT THAT IT MATTERS. ☆
HEY, UNDERLINGS! 1 AND 2!
I WANT YOU BOTH TO GO ON A BUSINESS TRIP TODAY!
Underling?


GRRRR
IS THAT WHAT THE JAPANESE CALL "BEING A PRUDE"?
WHAT WAS THAT?
...SA TSUKI
AND WAVING THAT STICK AROUND WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING..
I may be your little brother, but we're still the same age!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME! YOU CAN'T EVEN SPEAK JAPANESE!
EXCUSE ME FOR GROWING UP IN JAPAN!
Time to eat!
No Fighting allowed
Taking the jellyfish's side! What are you, a mollusk lover?!
STOP TELLING ME HOW TO DO THINGS! YOU'RE MY LITTLE BROTHER!
OH-HO.
A FIGHT BETWEEN BROTHERS, IS IT?
AND SO...
つんけん


SHUT UP, SHII
GRAAH!
LET'S GO, RIKU!
EH?
RECOMMENDED JAPANESE
THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN ☆
SATSUKI TEACHING SOMEONE SOMETHING I MEAN
Grr!
SHEESH!
YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH RIKU GETTING IN MY WAY? IS THAT IT, MIO? ☆
WHA?!
EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
TAKE CARE!
Don't come back until you have them!
Dress warmly!

THERE'S AN ARTICLE HERE THAT SAYS THE YAMABIKO GARDENING HAS RELEASED A NEW BUG-EATING FLOWER.
BUSINESS TRIP?!
I WANT YOU TO GO GET US SOME.
scratch
BUG-EATING FLOWER?
You mean like this?
SATSUKI! YOU'RE OUR BUSINESS TRIP SPECIALIST!
SHOW RIKU THE ROPES!

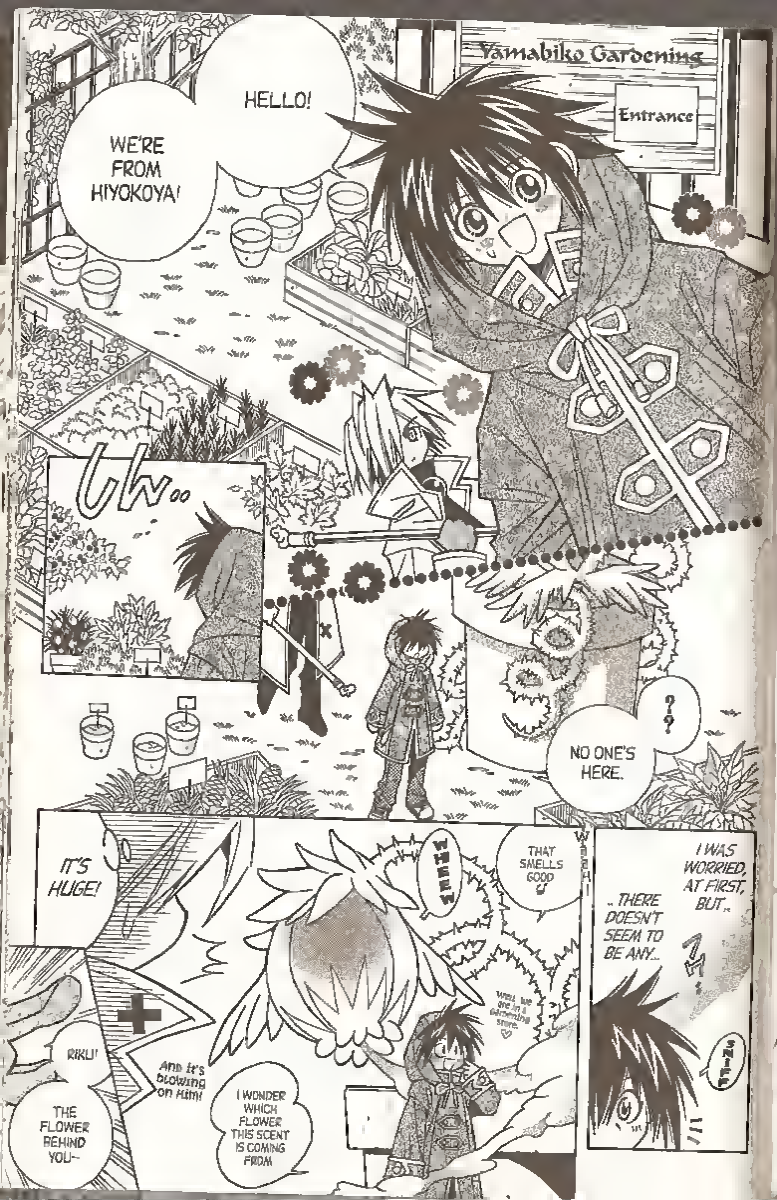
IT'S RIKU
HE'S MY LITTLE BRO
OH! YOU HAVE A NEWBIE WITH YOU ☆
HELLO!
HERE ON BUSINESS SATSUKI?
YEP.
I WANT ONE THAT'S TAME AND CAN CARRY TWO
TAME? THAT'S AN UNUSUAL REQUEST
HUH?
WINGS?
ON A HORSE?
GET ON.
SAY WHAT?!

HMPH.
HMPH.
...THIS IS MY FIRST BUSINESS TRIP.
HORSE RENTALS
STILL.
JANGLE
YO!
HMPH.
I NEED A HORSE.
SOMEHOW, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THIS TRIP IS A SUCCESS. ☆

LIFT-OFF
I'M NOT READY!!
IF--
IF I FALL, I'M DEAD!
I'M...
RELAX, NEWBIE!
SATSUKI'S RIDING SKILLS ARE FIRST-CLASS
Here
IF YOU NEED IT, HERE'S A LIFELINE
of course they are ♡
LIFE-LINE...
BLUNT
No thanks
BEING A MAN AND BEING SAFE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
REAL MEN DON'T NEED LIFELINES!
Err
JUST A--!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GET ON"?
THIS THING FLIES?! THIS ISN'T A HORSE!
WE'RE GOING TO THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN.
YOU WANNA WALK?

WHAT ARE Y--?
!
GROWING UP IN JAPAN...
...SURE MADE YOU A WIMP
U WHAT?!
WHY YOU--!
ガサ
ほいっ
UNGH..
BFF!
...THOSE YAMABIKO GARDENING JERKS
THIS GUY'S IS ALL BEAT UP!
DAMN..
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT?!
...EH?

WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH!
OOF?
I guess I'll tie you down here
ゴロ
ゴロ
ぎゅっ
ヒョオォォ
YOU'RE GONNA FALL
OOW..?
WHAT'RE YOU, SCARED?
...IS TICKING ME OFF
THIS GUY


Yamabiko Gardening
Entrance
HELLO!
WE'RE FROM HIYOKOYA!
NO ONE'S HERE.
??
IT'S HUGE!
RIKU!
THE FLOWER BEHIND YOU--
And it's blowing on him!
I WONDER WHICH FLOWER THIS SCENT IS COMING FROM
Well, we are a gardening store.
THAT SMELLS GOOD
I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST, BUT..
..THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY..

LET'S GO, RIKU
SA-SU-KE
OKAY
NO, I HAVE A HORSE. I'LL... BE ALL RIGHT
YOU NEED HELP GETTING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN?
YEAH. I WENT TO GET BUT I WAS NO MATCH...
YAMABIKO GARDENING?
HIYOKOYA WILL GET SOME AND BRING THEM BACK
THAT'S ALL.
YAMABIKO GARDENING? ISN'T THAT WHERE WE'RE GOING?!
BUT THAT MAN! HE WAS SO--!
SO WHAT?

RIKU!!
SMELLS NICE
LET ME OUT
IT'S THE SAME SCENT AS BEFORE
HUH?
I'M GETTING KINDA SLEEPY
HUFF!
AAHN!
RIKU?!
WAH!
WAAAAH?!
LEMME OUT!
WHAT IS THIS?!
I CAN'T MOVE!

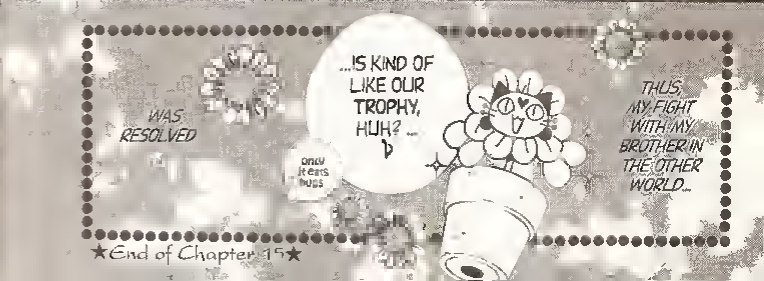
NO, THAT'S PART OF OUR SECURITY SYSTEM.
THE NEW FLOWER YOU SPEAK OF IS DIFFERENT
SORRY.
I'VE REALLY...
...BEEN COMPLETELY USELESS.
STILL...
THAT'S A HUGE BUG-EATING FLOWER. ☆
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE THIS.
It can't be
IS IT REALLY?
IS THIS THE NEW BUG-EATING FLOWER?

HEY!
RIKU!
RIKU?!
NNGH
DON'T GET EATEN AND THEN FALL ASLEEP!
WHA—? I'M ?
YAWN
RI...
あ!!
THE STEM HAD THORNS
I guess I got caught on them.
OH.
SATSUKI?! YOU'RE ALL SCRATCHED UP!
STOP CAUSING TROUBLE.
ARE YOU OKAY...? HERE'S A HANDKERCHIEF
NO THANKS
SNIFF

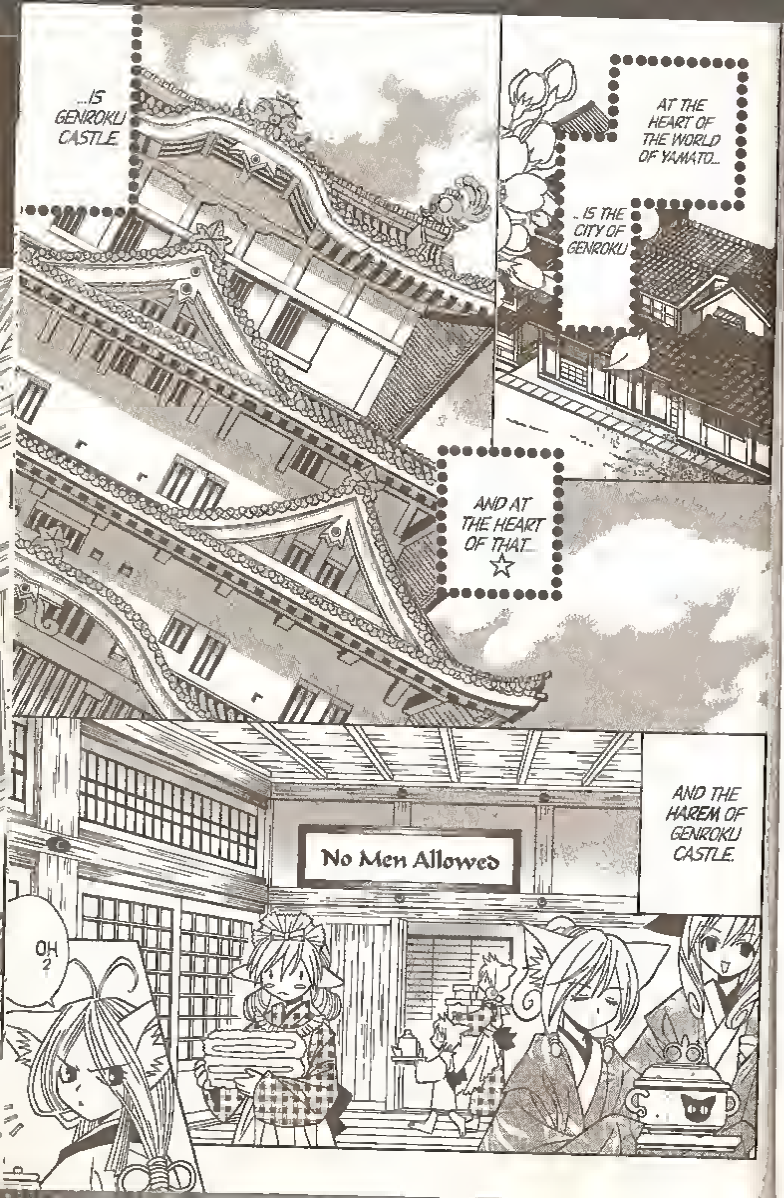
HA HA HA HA!
IF YOU CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION CORRECTLY..
♡
THEN I'LL SELL YOU THE NEW BUG-EATING FLOWER!
MY LOVELY QUIZ
♥
ZERO
HEH HEH HEH
HUH?
WHICH OF THESE DON'T BELONG?!
By the way, that one's the new flower.
NOW!
A LOT OF MERCHANTS TRESPASS HERE, TRYING TO GET OUR NEW FLOWER
I'm fed up with it.
THOUGH THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR TOO
SECURITY?
WHAT FOR?
WITH THIS SECURITY PLANT, AND THE NEXT "TEST"
ヒけ
SO I SCREEN THEM FIRST
CURRENTLY THE PASS RATE IS ZERO PERCENT
I see now.
THAT POOR GUY BACK THERE, TOO
"TEST"?
WELCOME TO YAMABIKO GARDENING.
YOU'VE DEFEATED OUR SECURITY PLANT! YOU MUST REALLY BE SOMETHING FOR A PAIR OF KIDS

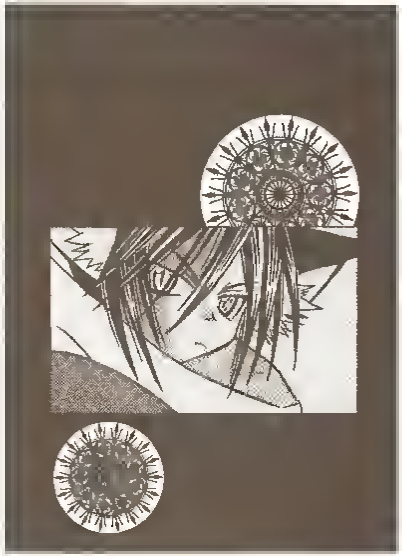
...YOUR GROWING UP IN JAPAN CAN BE USEFUL, SOMETIMES. ☆
GASP!
WELL
I GUESS...
MAYBE I'LL PRACTICE SOME STUFF, TOO
A LITTLE MARTIAL ARTS TOO.
TO DEFEND MYSELF
LIKE HOW TO RIDE A HORSE
...AND STUFF
DON'T WEAR YOURSELF OUT
IT'S MIXED IN WITH OTHER UNKNOWN FLOWERS FROM THE FOREIGN WORLD OF JAPAN, SO NONE WILL POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO→
コト
squeal!
squeal!
WELL?
HARD, ISN'T IT?
I've never seen this before
what is this?
THE OTHERS ARE SUNFLOWERS, DANDELIONS, MORNING GLORIES, AND TULIPS SO.
EASY AS PIE!!
カラン
カラン
カラン
YOU GOT IT RIGHT?!
Awesome!
ahem!
...THIS ONE?
UH!
IT'S EASY FOR SOMEONE WHO'S JAPANESE
HOW TUDE!
GREAT JOB!
YOU DID IT, RIKU!!

...A LOT OF OTHER THINGS YOU CAN DO, RIKU.
THERE ARE...
EH?
BAD MANNERED AND TERRIBLE AT CUSTOMER SERVICE
SO I WANT TO HELP THE SHOP BY DOING THE KIND OF WORK I'M GOOD AT IT.
I'M...
THE BUG-EATING PLANT...
NN?
WE GOT IT BY WORKING TOGETHER



★End of Chapter 15★


...IS GENROKU CASTLE.
AT THE HEART OF THE WORLD OF YAMATO...
...IS THE CITY OF GENROKU.
AND AT THE HEART OF THAT...
AND THE HAREM OF GENROKU CASTLE.
No Men Allowed
OH?



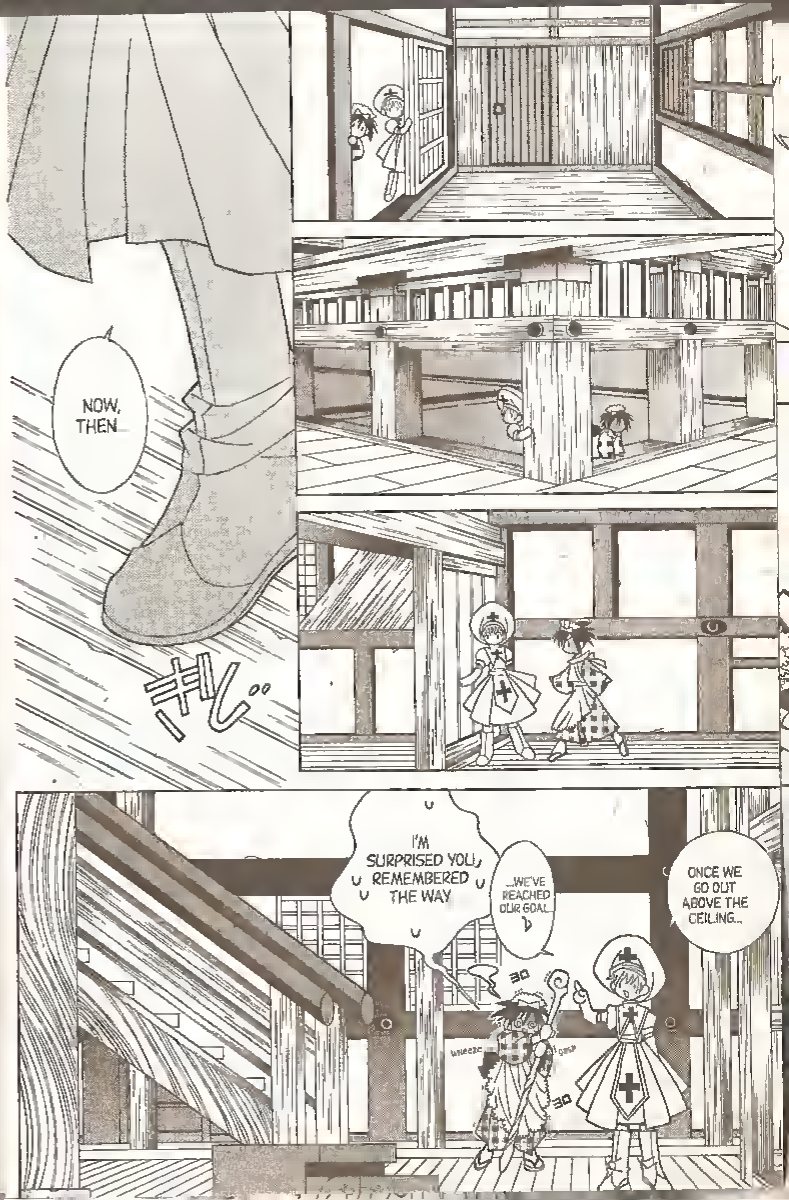
DON'T LOSE HEART NOW ☆
RIKU-CHAN
Yes yes
Young people these days.
Indeed
.....
SHH!
WHY ARE WE DRESSING LIKE WOMEN AND SNEAKING THROUGH THE LADIES' CHAMBERS?!
FOR SOME REASON, THE TWO OF US..
I don't wanna do this anymore!
It's bad for my heart.
...HAVE SNUCK INTO THE CASTLE.
IT'S A SHORTCUT ♡

YOU TWO! THE MAID AND NURSE!
JUST A MINUTE!
Um...
We're busy, so don't wander around aimlessly!
I'M SO SORRY WE'RE NEW SO WE'RE NOT USED TO EVERYTHING ♡
HEY, UM...
HERE! TAKE THIS TO UMENO-TSUBONE-SAMA!!
AND YOU-NURSE! THAT ISN'T THE WAY TO THE MEDICAL TREATMENT CHAMBER!

SHI!!
HEAP OF FAMILY ANTIQUES?
MY DADDY'S EXPENSIVE!
IF WE DO THIS, W-WE'LL--!
FAMILY SEPARATED?
LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ☆
What a mess.
I'M FULLY CONFIDENT THAT WE WON'T SCREW THIS UP.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
COULD IT BE...
A MURDER WEAPON?!
A "DELIVERY" ♡
...WHAT KIND OF JOB IS THIS, ANYWAY?
HEY...
IT'S FOR WORK, OF COURSE!
IT WAS A JOB THAT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED FOR SHII, BUT...
DELIVERING WHAT? TO WHOM?
THEY SAID THEY WANTED US TO DELIVER IT WITHOUT THE LORD OF THE CASTLE OR HIS STAFF KNOWING
THAT'S A SECRET ♪
A "DELIVERY" THAT'S A SECRET?!
...EVEN TO THE LORD?!
カリカリ
カリちゃー

SHH...
...YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE TO PIN DOWN.
YEAH.
I GET THAT A LOT. ♡
FIGURES.
がっくし
straight ahead
?
IT'S OKAY! THEY DIDN'T FIND YOU OUT JUST NOW!
Pat ♡
HAVE MORE.
...CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CROSS-DRESSING ♡
AH HA HA! THAT'S MY RIKU. ♪
WHY SHOULD I?!
JUST AS I PREDICTED. ♪
I'M...
...SERIOUSLY WORRIED. ☆
I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR A WHILE, BUT...
UP NEXT WE'LL HAVE A FIGURE
IS HE FOR IN-SERIOUS (OR WHAT)?

CEASE AND DESIST, VILLAINS!
ガラーン ガラーン
EEP!
I'VE BEEN HERE TWO OR THREE TIMES ON THE SAME JOB.
A HABITUAL CRIMINAL...?
OOPS
よろっ
?!
K-KLUNK
WAH?!


NOW, THEN...
まし
I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBERED THE WAY
...WE'VE REACHED OUR GOAL
ONCE WE GO OUT ABOVE THE CEILING...

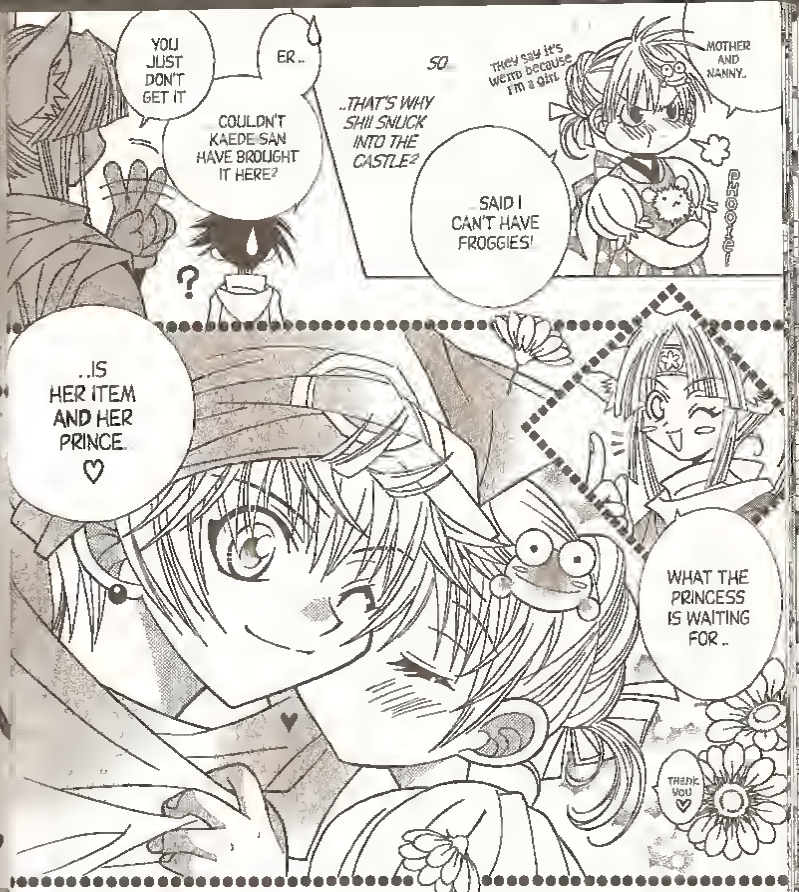
EH?
IF WE'VE BEEN DISCOVER-ED
..THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. ♡
!
RIKU!
WE'RE ESCAP-ING!
OH DEARY ME!
THE SUSPICIOUS MAID AND NURSE!
GET THEM!
WOOOW! ♡
NINJAS! ARE THEY REAL?!
OH-OH
NOW, NOW, GUARDS...
DON'T MOVE!
FWISH
WAGH!

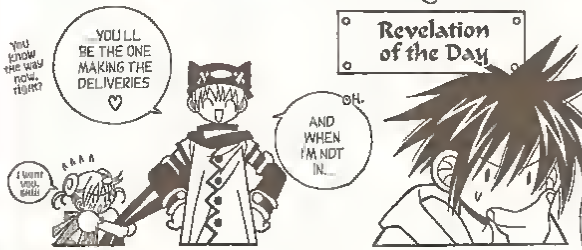
SHII!
PREPARE TO DIE
I'M USING A SMOKESCREEN!
KAE-DE ?!
WHY ARE YOU...?
UWAAAAH?!
Hums!
I CAN'T MOVE, RUNNING AWAY IN THIS!
SHEESH!
YEAH, YEAH
Gasp!
ALTHOUGH, IT'S ALL knotted UP
NO.
UM, YOU KNOW
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE YOUR DRESS JUST BECAUSE I DID
WE'RE SUR-ROUNDED
SHII..

THE FOURTH DAUGHTER OF THE LORD OF GENROKU-- PRINCESS KOMARI SHE'S ALMOST SIX YEARS OLD.
HOH HOH
?
PRIN-CESS..
...HERE IS YOUR ORDER
A FROGGIE BARRETTE
KAEDE CHAN HERE...
...BROUGHT THE PRINCESS'S ORDER FORM TO OUR SHOP
Barrette
Order form
LOOKS very GOOD on you, PRINCESS
WAAH!
THANK YOU SHII! KAEDE!

CLANK
SHII!
HELLO, PRINCESS KOMARI
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, YOUR HIGHNESS!!

OH, NO!
LOOK AT THE TIME!
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE DORMS!
Working overtime
I HAVE FINALS STARTING TOMORROW.
SORRY!
THERE'S STILL A TON OF WORK TO DO
Bottling water
IT WAS.
..LIKE ANY OTHER DAY AT HIYOKOYA


YOU JUST DON'T GET IT
ER..
COULDN'T KAEDE-SAN HAVE BROUGHT IT HERE?
SO
..THAT'S WHY SHII SNUCK INTO THE CASTLE?
They say it's weird because I'm a girl.
MOTHER AND NANNY..
SAID I CAN'T HAVE FROGGIES!
..IS HER ITEM AND HER PRINCE..
WHAT THE PRINCESS IS WAITING FOR..
THANK YOU

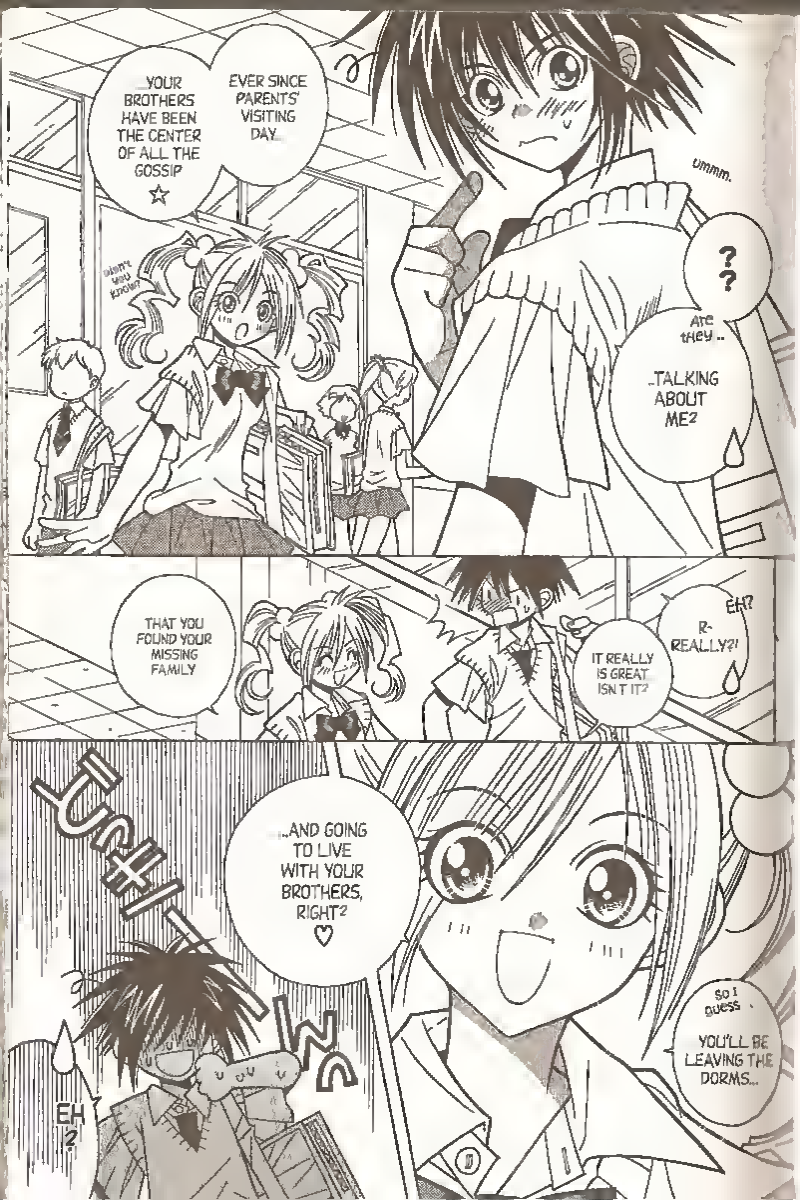

You know the way now, right?
..YOU'LL BE THE ONE MAKING THE DELIVERIES
I want you, Shii!
AND WHEN I'M NOT IN...
OH.
Revelation of the Day
HUH
SO BASICALLY, SHII..
..WILL GO TO ANY LENGTH FOR HIS FEMALE CUSTOMERS

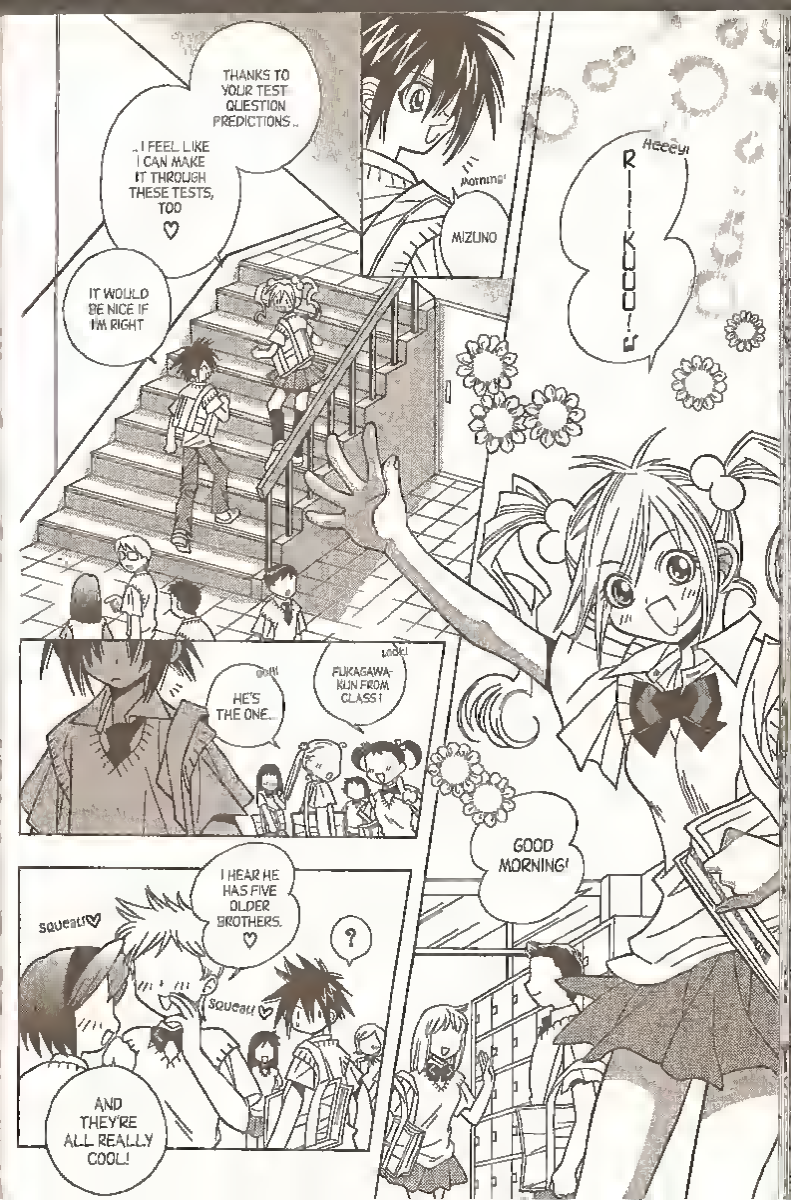
★End of Chapter 16★

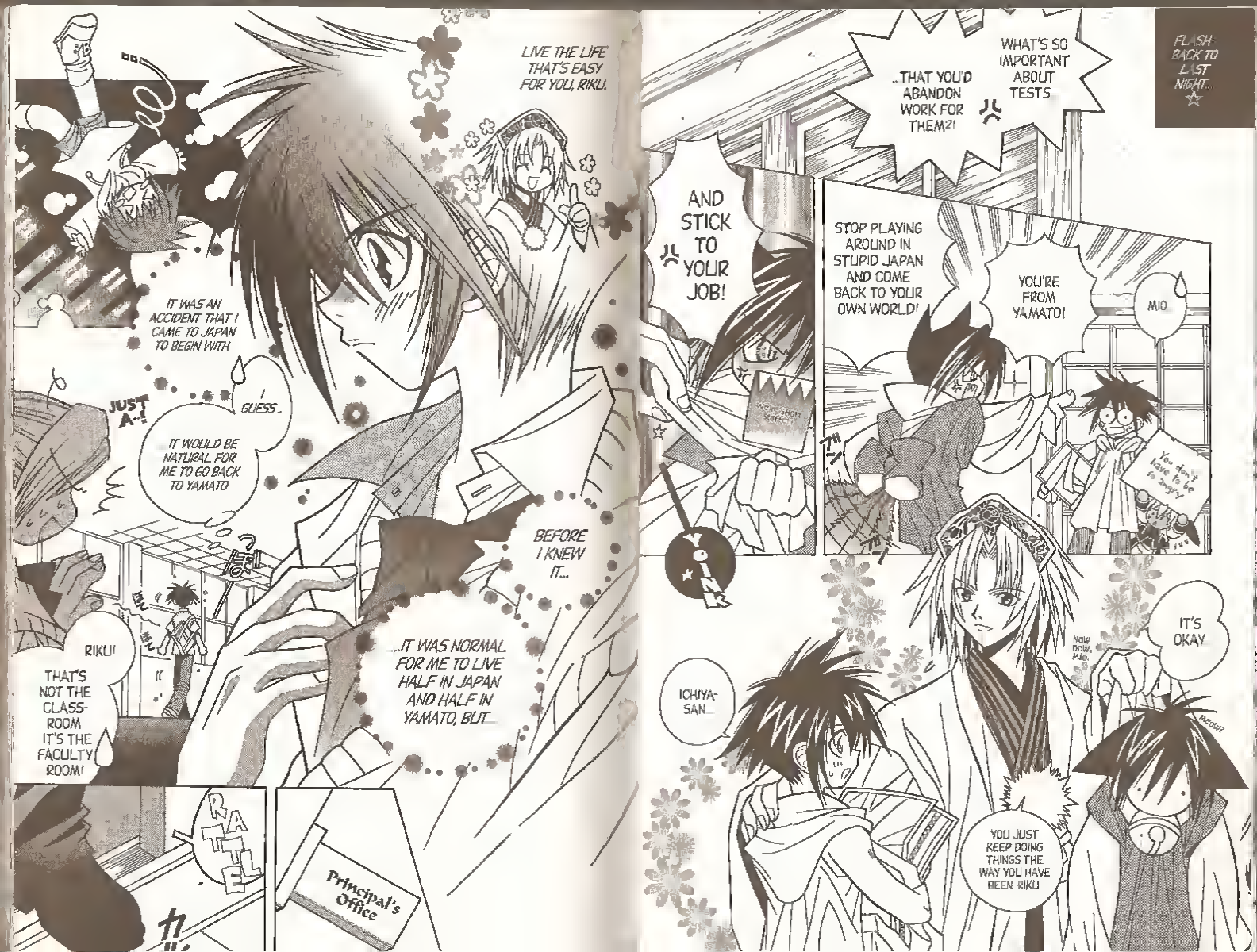
Chapter 17

Two Worlds

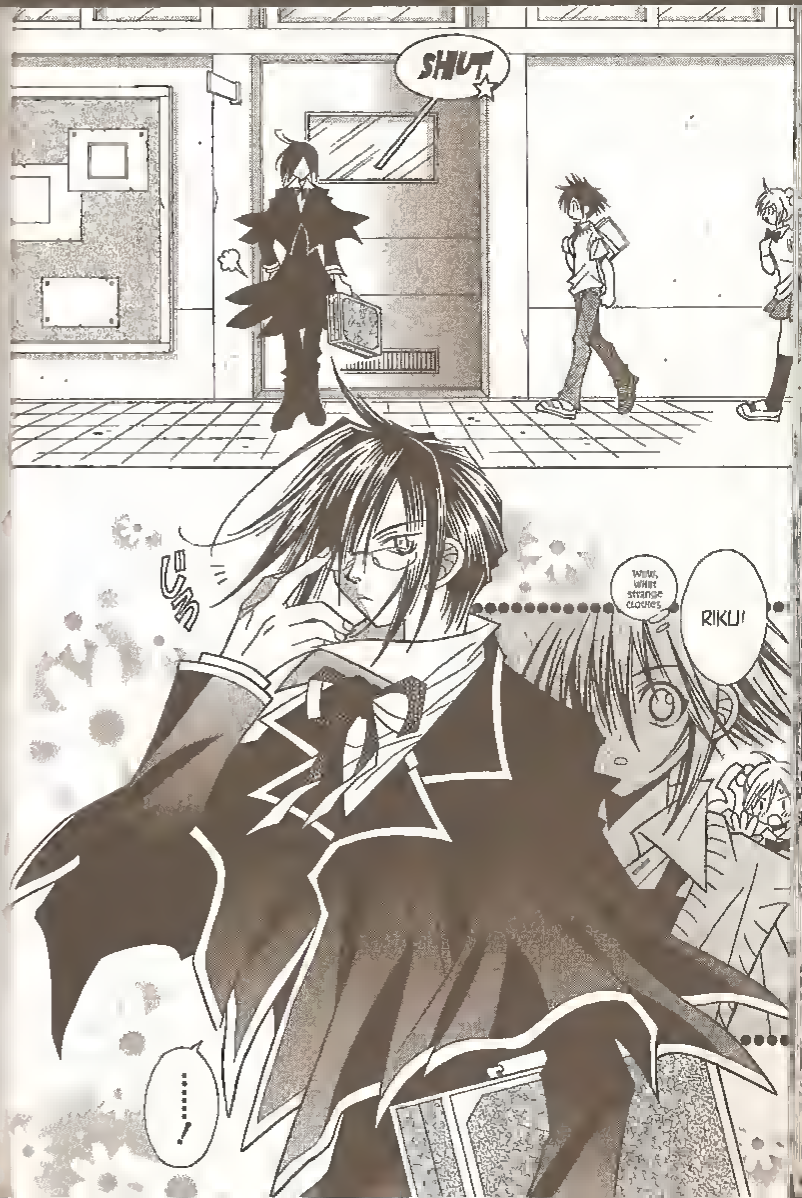
!
I'M A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT--I CAN'T LET MY GRADES SLIDE ☆
WHO CARES ABOUT A TEST ?!
Exempt from tuition and housing fees
AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT STARTED...
...PLANNING TO KEEP UP THIS HALF-BAKED DOUBLE LIFE?
HEY
RIKU!
HOW LONG ARE YOU...

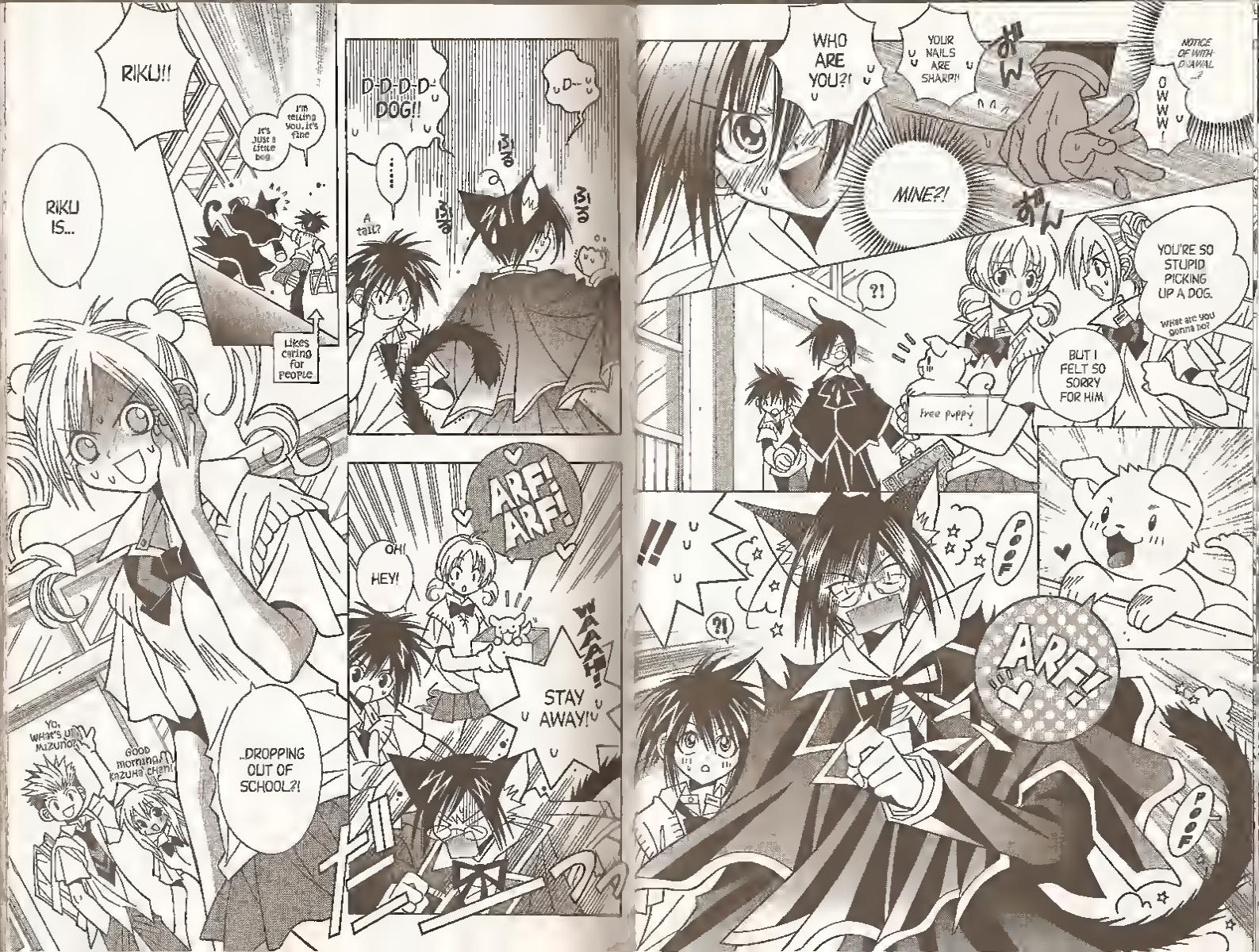

YOUR BROTHERS HAVE BEEN THE CENTER OF ALL THE GOSSIP ☆
EVER SINCE PARENTS' VISITING DAY...
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
ummm.
?
ARE THEY..
..TALKING ABOUT ME?
THAT YOU FOUND YOUR MISSING FAMILY
IT REALLY IS GREAT, ISN'T IT?
EH?
R-REALLY?!
ぶにゅ
..AND GOING TO LIVE WITH YOUR BROTHERS, RIGHT? ♡
SO I GUESS, YOU'LL BE LEAVING THE DORMS...
EH?


THANKS TO YOUR TEST QUESTION PREDICTIONS..
..I FEEL LIKE I CAN MAKE IT THROUGH THESE TESTS, TOO ♡
IT WOULD BE NICE IF I'M RIGHT
Morning!
MIZUNO
Heeey!
R-I-I-K-U-U-!
GOOD MORNING!
Look!
FUKAGAWA-KUN FROM CLASS 1
Gulp
HE'S THE ONE..
I HEAR HE HAS FIVE OLDER BROTHERS. ♡
?
Squeal! ♡
Squeal! ♡
AND THEY'RE ALL REALLY COOL!


LIVE THE LIFE THAT'S EASY FOR YOU, RIKU.
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT I CAME TO JAPAN TO BEGIN WITH
JUST A..!
I GUESS..
IT WOULD BE NATURAL FOR ME TO GO BACK TO YAMATO
BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...IT WAS NORMAL FOR ME TO LIVE HALF IN JAPAN AND HALF IN YAMATO, BUT...
RIKU!
THAT'S NOT THE CLASS-ROOM IT'S THE FACULTY ROOM!
RATTLE
Principal's Office
FLASH-BACK TO LAST NIGHT...
..THAT YOU'D ABANDON WORK FOR THEM?!
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT TESTS
AND STICK TO YOUR JOB!
STOP PLAYING AROUND IN STUPID JAPAN AND COME BACK TO YOUR OWN WORLD!
YOU'RE FROM YAMATO!
MIO
You don't have to be so angry
YOINK
IT'S OKAY
Now now, Mio..
MEOW!
ICHIYA-SAN...
YOU JUST KEEP DOING THINGS THE WAY YOU HAVE BEEN RIKU

...I'VE JUST TURNED IN YOUR NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SCHOOL.
RIKU..
カツ
PERFECT TIMING
カツ
EH?
WHO?
WAIT A--!
WE'RE GOING BACK TO YAMATO.
RIKU?!
EH?


SHUT
WOW, WHAT STRANGE CLOUDS.
RIKU!
UM
!

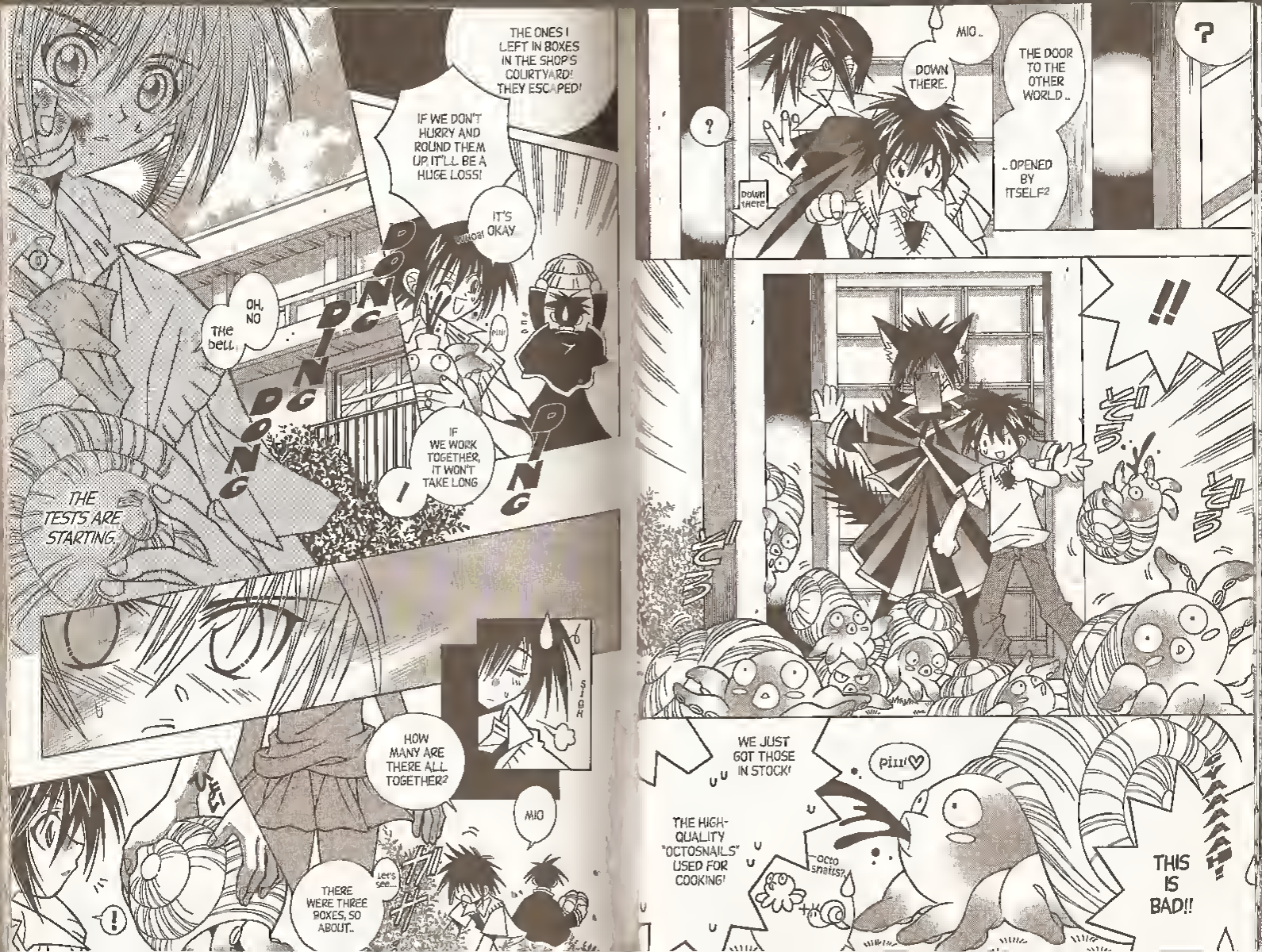

RIKU!!
I'm telling you, it's fine
It's just a little dog
RIKU IS...
Likes caring for people
D-D-D-D-DOG!!
D--
A tail?
ARF! ARF!
OH!
HEY!
STAY AWAY!
..DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL?!
YO, WHAT'S UP MIZUNO?
GOOD MORNING KAZUHA CHAN!
WHO ARE YOU?!
YOUR NAILS ARE SHARP!!
NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL
OWWW!
MINE?!
YOU'RE SO STUPID PICKING UP A DOG.
What are you gonna do?
BUT I FELT SO SORRY FOR HIM.
free puppy
POOF
ARF!

GASP!
I MEAN--!
THAT'S
WE SHOULD HAVE DONE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING..
..TURNING IN MY WITHDRAWAL NOTICE WITH ASKING?!
NOW YOU'RE TOO ATTACHED TO JAPAN
..IF HE HADN'T?
WHY WOULD I COME HERE..
DON'T TELL ME.
DID ICHIYA-SAN..TELL YOU TO TURN IT IN?
うガー!!
HE LICK..
TAIL?
TAIL?

THAT'S WHY I HATE LEAVING MY TERRITORY!!
SO IT IS YOU, MIO
TO THINK THINK THERE WOULD BE..
A SAVAGE DOG IN A PLACE LIKE THAT..
GASP
IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE BLOOD FROM THE NEKOMATA CLAN.
YOU CAN CHANGE FORM!
That's awesome!
But I only have one tail.

どうして
umm
I LIKE...
...FEEDING THE STRAY CATS?
w when you ask me out of the blue like that
THAT IS NOT AN EXCUSE!!
ショオオ
COME ON, WAIT, MIO!!
FINALS START TODAY! IF I DON'T TAKE THE TESTS I'LL BE IN HUGE TROUBLE!
HUH?
MIO-OOO!
YOU'RE DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL... TESTS DON'T MATTER
BALANCE.. THE SCALES?
I... I...

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
EH?
HEY, RIKU!!
ICHIYA-SAN
IN YAMATO..
DO YOU
...HAVE SOMETHING HERE IN JAPAN THAT CAN BALANCE THE SCALES?
...YOU'VE GOT A PLACE TO LIVE, A JOB, AND A FAMILY.


THE ONES I LEFT IN BOXES IN THE SHOP'S COURTYARD! THEY ESCAPED!
IF WE DON'T HURRY AND ROUND THEM UP, IT'LL BE A HUGE LOSS!
IT'S OKAY
Whoa!
OH, NO
The bell.
DONG DONG DONG DONG
IF WE WORK TOGETHER, IT WON'T TAKE LONG
THE TESTS ARE STARTING
SIGH
HOW MANY ARE THERE ALL TOGETHER?
MIO
Let's see...
THERE WERE THREE BOXES, SO ABOUT..
!
MIO..
DOWN THERE.
?
DOWN THERE
THE DOOR TO THE OTHER WORLD..
..OPENED BY ITSELF?
?
!!
どう
どう
どう
WE JUST GOT THOSE IN STOCK!
Piii♡
THE HIGH-QUALITY "OCTOSNAILS" USED FOR COOKING!
"Octo snails?"
THIS IS BAD!!

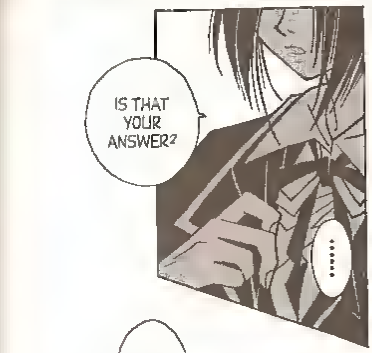
AND
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO PREDICT THE QUESTIONS FOR THE MAKEUP TESTS.
YOU CAME AFTER ME, BUT WHAT ABOUT FINALS?!
YOU'RE SKIPPING OUT ON THEM TOO, AREN'T YOU, RIKU?
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU IS A BIGGER DEAL THAN FINALS, RIKU
GUYS
!!!
MIO!
WE HAVE EIGHTEEN OCTOSNAILS IS THAT ALL?
I brought a plastic bag ♡
NN?
YEAH
Ah, is about it?
Wow many have we got?
Let's see

LET'S DO OUR BEST, RIKU!!
IT'LL BE EVEN FASTER IF WE ALL HELP ♡
...SO I CALLED EVERYONE TO COME AFTER YOU!
YOU WERE TAKEN AWAY, RIKU..
And then you were kind of fighting about something
What are you saying?
WHY?
MIZU-NO?!
FUJIMOTO, EVERYBODY

AND FINALLY, I'VE MADE A PLACE FOR MYSELF THAT I CAN CALL HOME.
MIO.
I DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T KNOW IF THE SCALES ARE BALANCED..
MIZUNO GUYS.
I MEAN, HEY!
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?!
YOU'RE HOPELESS
YEAH.
THANK YOU
FIVE YEARS AGO...
REALLY... THANK YOU
...I GOT LOST IN JAPAN, WITH NOTHING TO CALL MY OWN.
UM, IS RIKU'S HOME AT SOME KIND OF SHOP?
WHAT IF IT IS?
WE'LL HELP RIKU WITH SCHOOLWORK AND AT THE SHOP, SO..
SO PLEASE!
UMM..
MIO-SAN?
DON'T MAKE RIKU DROP OUT OF SCHOOL!!
!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE ♡
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHILE I'M AT IT"?!
TEE HEE!
DON'T DROP OUT, RIKU!
GOOD JOB!
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT TELL RIKU YOU LIKE HIM!!

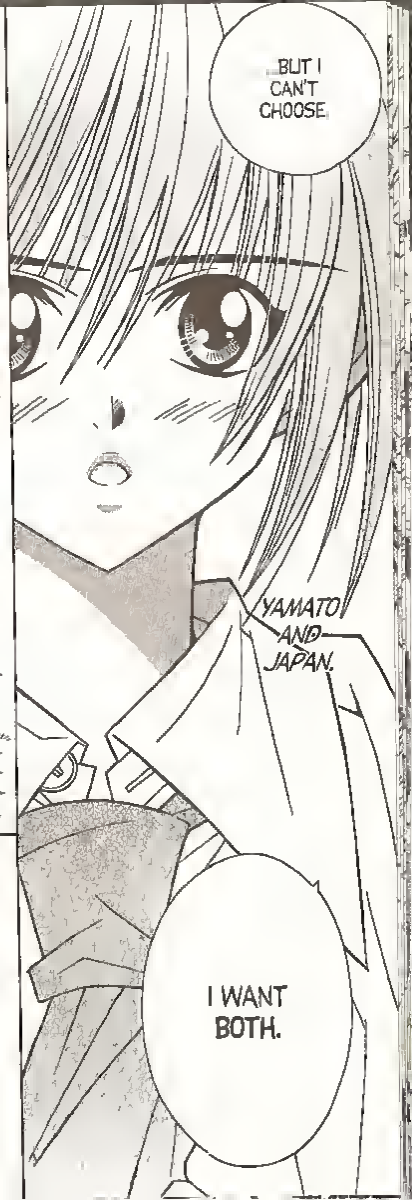
THEN YOU MEAN
WOULD NEVER MAKE ME CORNER YOU LIKE THAT
I DID THIS ON MY OWN
THAT STUPID DOTING BROTHER...
EH?!
AND WHAT I'LL ALSO DO ON MY OWN..
IS LET IT GO THIS TIME
GET THE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BACK YOURSELF

Hm
YOU TOO, RIKU! HUTTY!
Listen!
If we hurry, we can still take the test!

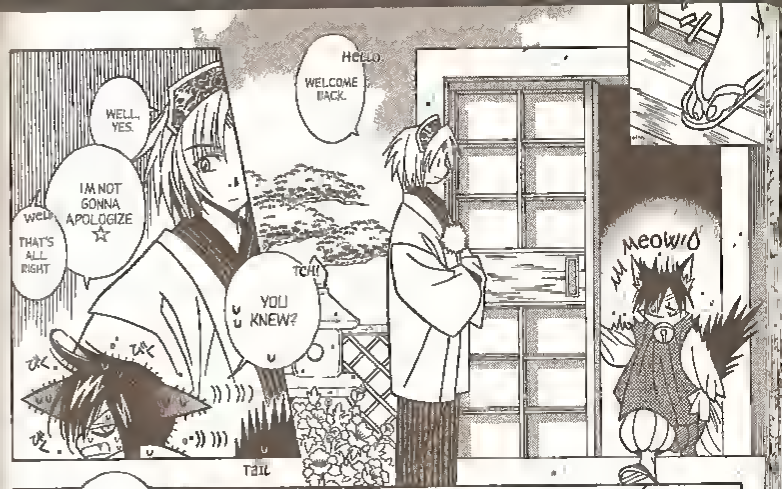

IS THAT YOUR ANSWER?
.....

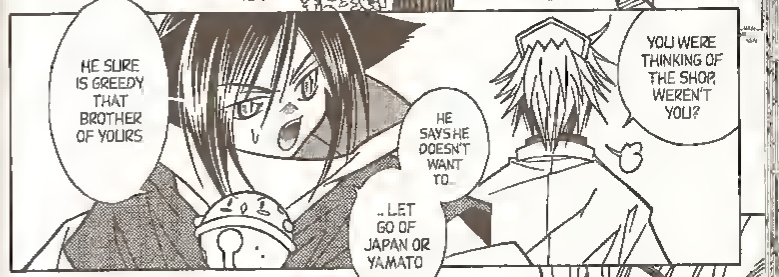
I'M SORRY..
I'LL TALK TO ICHIYA-SAN MYSELF
..SO..

IT WAS A LIE.


..BUT I CAN'T CHOOSE
YAMATO AND JAPAN.
I WANT BOTH.

GENROKU AUTUMN FESTIVAL
Takoyaki
TODAY IS THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL IN THE CITY OF GENROKU
THE VARIOUS STORES IN GENROKU...
...OPEN STREET STALLS FOR BUSINESS.
Stop playing around and work!
Fan
IT'S LIKE OOHH! A SCHOOL CARNIVAL!
EL



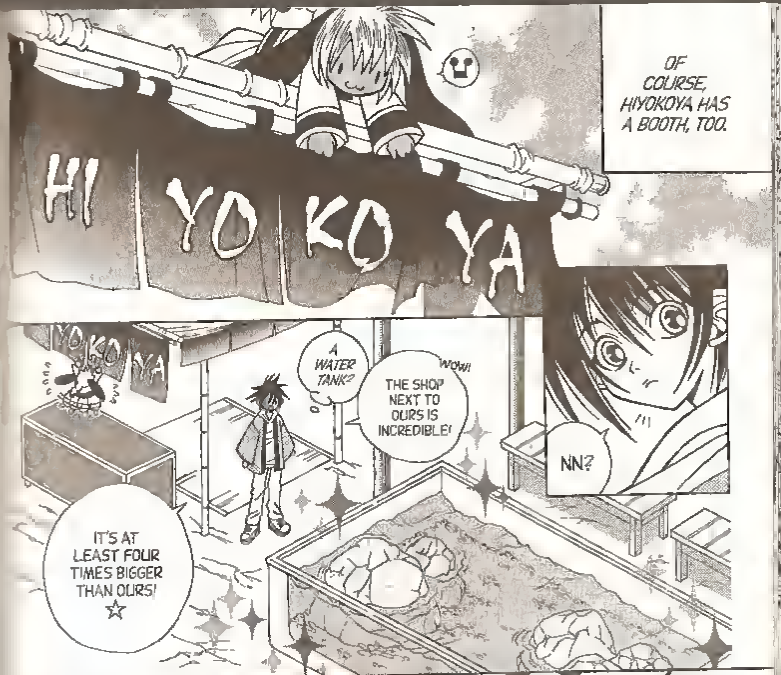

HE SURE IS GREEDY THAT BROTHER OF YOURS
HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO...
...LET GO OF JAPAN OR YAMATO
YOU WERE THINKING OF THE SHOP WEREN'T YOU?

...FOR A BOY FROM A FAMILY OF MERCHANTS TO BE THAT GREEDY?
I'll go to work during breaks from class!
And stop talking that doting too far!
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING.

★ End of Chapter 17 ★

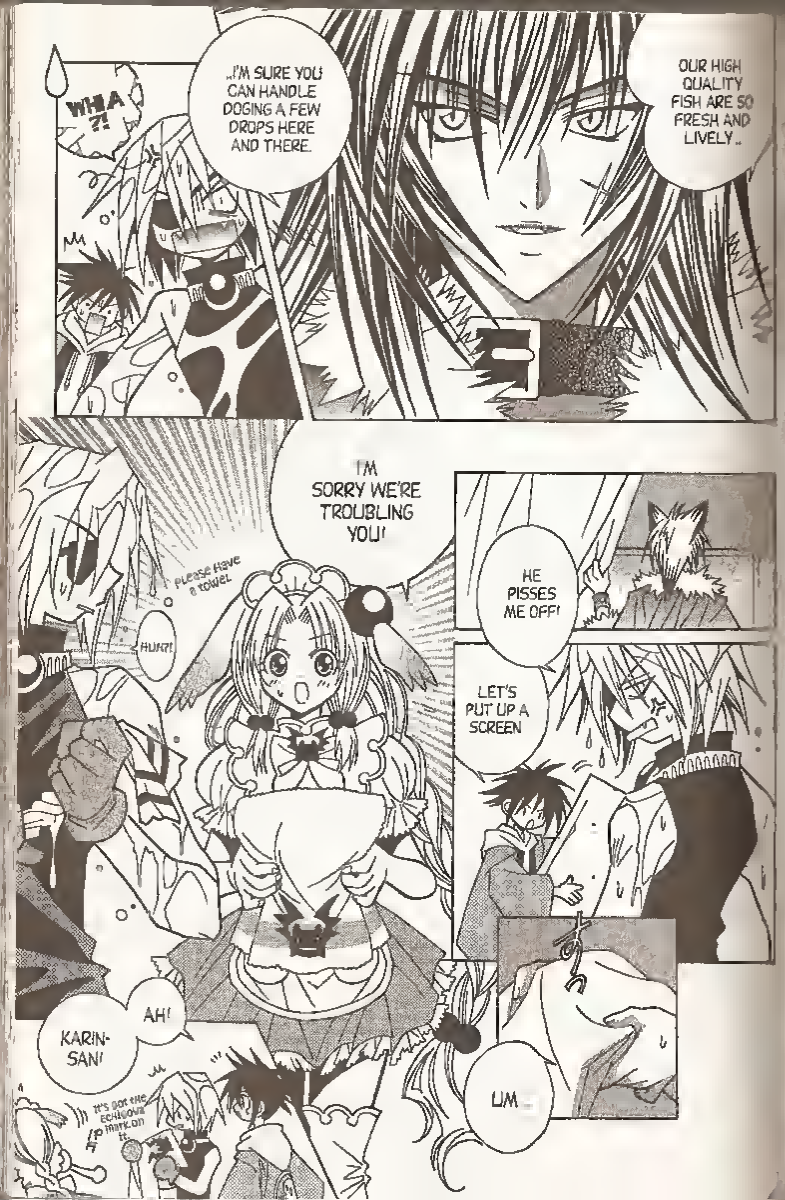
Chapter 18

We're Neighbors ♥


OF COURSE, HIYOKOYA HAS A BOOTH, TOO.
HI YO KO YA
NN?
WOW!! THE SHOP NEXT TO OURS IS INCREDIBLE!
A WATER TANK?
IT'S AT LEAST FOUR TIMES BIGGER THAN OURS! ☆

IS THIS A DEMONSTRATION?
wow!
munch
munch
munch
Your food is right here!
OOH?
THEY SAY THEY'VE GOT BUG-EATING PLANTS
TOWEL
WHY ARE WE ONLY SELLING BUG-EATING PLANTS?
SATSUKI!
BECAUSE WE HAVE A TON IN STOCK.
YAMABIKO GARDENING SENT US LIKE A MILLION TRIAL PRODUCTS
Maybe they like us since the last time we were there
STILL...
...OF ALL THINGS WE HAVE TO BE NEXT DOOR TO..
はっ

Bells
Castilla
Yakisoba
WELCOME...
...TO HIYOKOYA!!
They'll eat things other than bugs, too. ♡
Like adango!
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BUG-EATING PLANTS? ♥

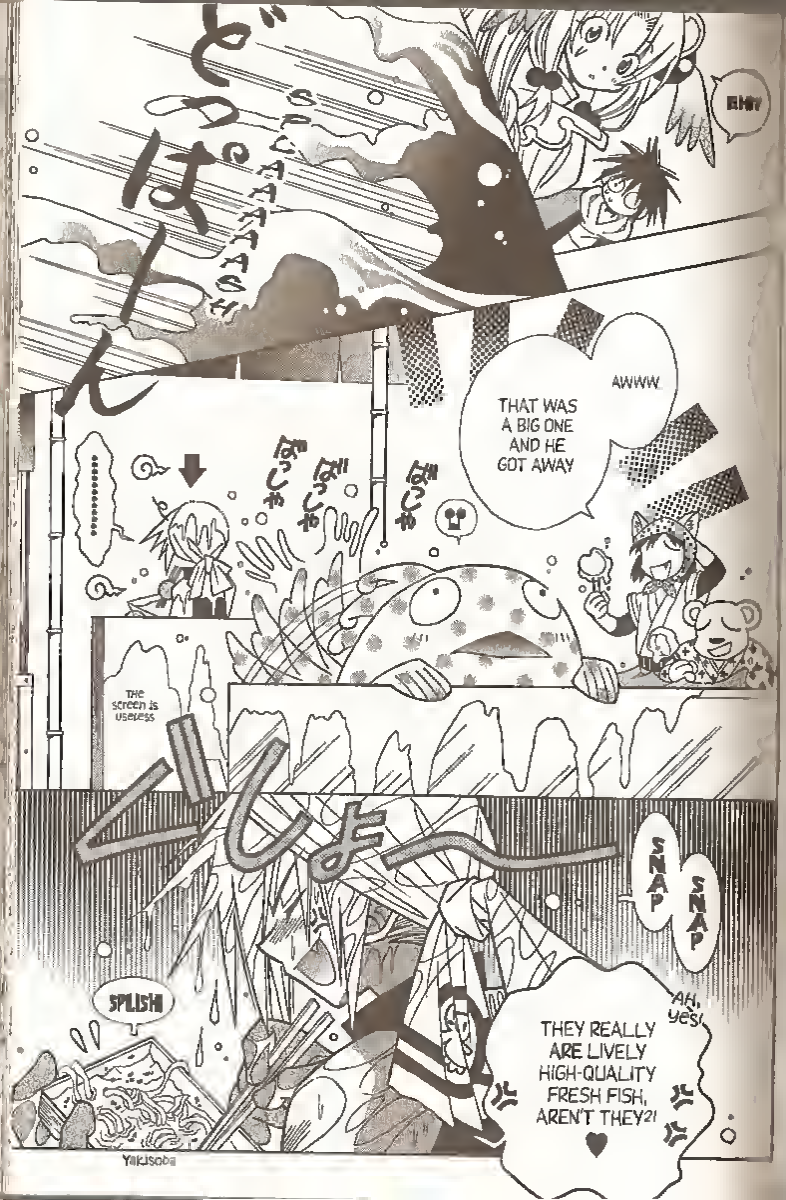

WHA?!
..I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE DOGING A FEW DROPS HERE AND THERE.
OUR HIGH QUALITY FISH ARE SO FRESH AND LIVELY..
I'M SORRY WE'RE TROUBLING YOU!
PLEASE HAVE A TOWEL
HURT!
HE PISSES ME OFF!
LET'S PUT UP A SCREEN
KARIN-SAN!
AH!
IT'S GOT THE ECHIGOYA TO MARY ON IT.
UM..

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY ECHIGOYA'S ♥EDIBLE FISH CAPTURE?
YAY!
HE GOT AWAY!
HORSE MACKEREL, MACKEREL, EGUHI, SNAPPER. ALL YOU CAN CATCH AND EAT! ♡♡
わい
びょ
びょ
HEY...
...ECHI-GOYA!

ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CATCH MACKEREL AND SQUID WITH NETS MADE OF WAFER TO BEGIN WITH?
IT'S THEIR FAULT FOR GOING ALONG WITH IT
MY LADY.
YOU MAY BE THE HEAD OF ECHIGOYA...
...BUT AS HEAD CLERK, I'M THE ONE WHO KEEPS THE STORE GOING.
YOU SEEM TO BE COMING TO THE STORE ON WHIMS RECENTLY.

AND--!
LADY KARIN
ROUGA!
AND?
JUST NOW
THE WAY YOU TALKED TO THEM...
YOU WERE VERY RUDE TO HIYOKOYA SAN
ROU GA
YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR NET AND TRY AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT UNTIL YOU SUCCEED IN CATCHING A FISH.
Replacement Nets 10 sen each
NO GOOD AGAIN
THEY BREAK RIGHT AWAY

THIS IS FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
ちょん
A MINIATURE BUG-EATING PLANT.
THANKS FOR THE TOWEL EARLIER
KARIN-SAN!
YOU'RE REALLY DOING YOUR JOB AT YOUR STORE, AREN'T YOU?
AW! IT'S SO CUTE!
OH, RIKU-SAN...
WELL, THEN!
I'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD, TOO!
WELL, THEN
I'M GOING BACK TO THE MAIN STORE.
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
BUT, MY LADY...
...ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS WATCH.
IT'S NOT.
...A WHIM.
COOKED CARROTS
Soda
AH!
KARIN-SAN!


どっぱーん
SPLAAAASH
EH?
AWWW
THAT WAS A BIG ONE AND HE GOT AWAY
ぼっしゃ
ぼっしゃ
ぼっしゃ
The screen is useless
ムリしょー
SNAP
SNAP
SPLISH
AH, yes!
THEY REALLY ARE LIVELY HIGH-QUALITY FRESH FISH, AREN'T THEY?!
Yakisoba

ぱっ!
YES THAT'S RIGHT
WELL BOTH--
しゃキーんっ
Are
ARE YOU OKAY?
DID IT SCARE YOU?
I THOUGHT A LITTLE ONE MIGHT BE OKAY, SO I...
Hey, knock that off
SPLASH
ばっしゃーん
ピュイー
Not only bugs
Mm!
IT WANTS TO CATCH ANYTHING THAT MOVES, DOESN'T IT?

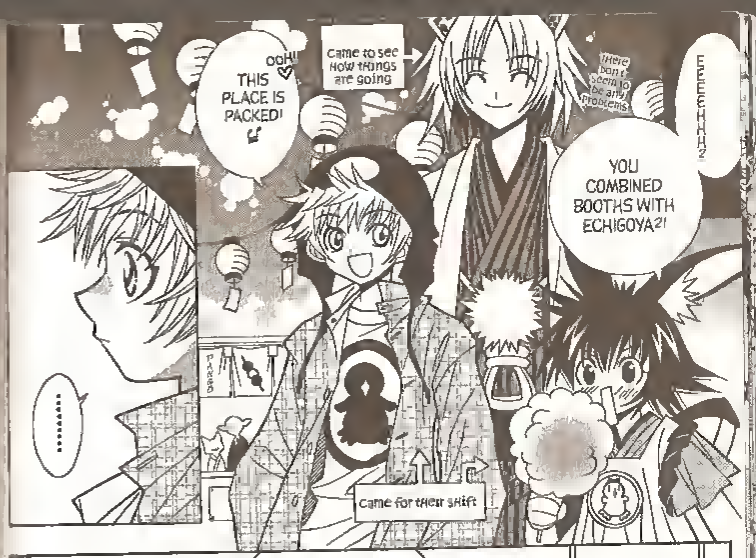
...WENT OUT OF BUSINESS
OUR FISH CATCHING BOOTH
OH man
Ha Ha Ha!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
WHEN I WAS HIT BY THAT BIG WAVE JUST NOW...
YES
YOU DROPPED ALL THE NETS IN THE FISHTANK?!
YOU HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING ANYONE CATCH ANY FISH TO BEGIN WITH!
OH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
OUR PLANTS WOULD BE BETTER AT CATCHING FISH, ANYWAY DONTCHA' THINK?

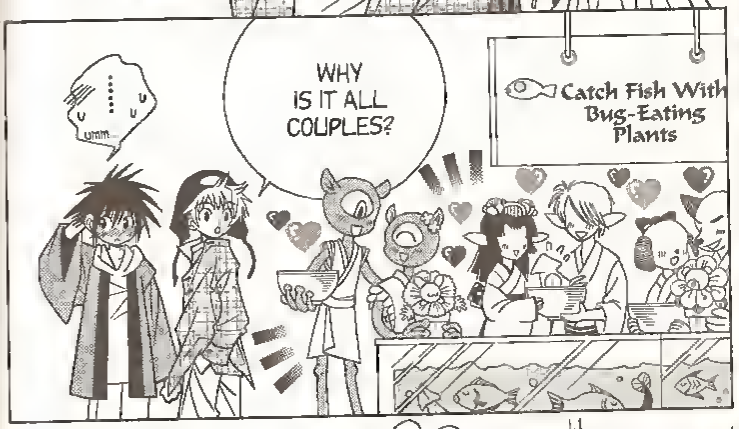
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!
GET OUT HERE, ECHIGOYA!
SATSUKI!
NN?
screen
OH, NO
NO NO.
munch munch
OUR "FISH CATCHING" WAFER-NETS...!

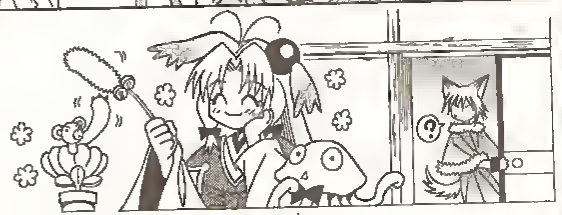
NOW, THEN ☆
MEW?
If they can catch fish, that's not good business
SHUT UP
I'M COUNTING ON YOU CAT VERSION!
MEOW!
!
SWIM
ぱちゃーん

..HIYOKOYA AND ECHIGOYA CAN WORK TOGETHER!
Let's cat fish with bug-eating plants!
EH?
I MEAN..
I'LL HELP.
LADY!
WE DON'T WANT YOUR HELP!!
WHO WOULD WORK WITH THOSE GUYS?!
WE'RE NEIGHBORS-- WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER.
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY

BE CAREFUL, KARIN-SAN!
OOOH!
NO WAY!
GOT HIM!
I'LL CATCH IT!
HERE!!
OOOOOOHHHHH
SPLASH!
WE DID IT!!
AM?
WHOA!
I'M SORRY!
NOT AT ALL.
!!


OOH! THIS PLACE IS PACKED!
Came to see how things are going
There won't actually be any problems!
SERENA?
YOU COMBINED BOOTHS WITH ECHIGOYA?!
.....
Came for their shift





★ End of Chapter 18 ★

Chapter 19

Heart-Pounding Camp♥

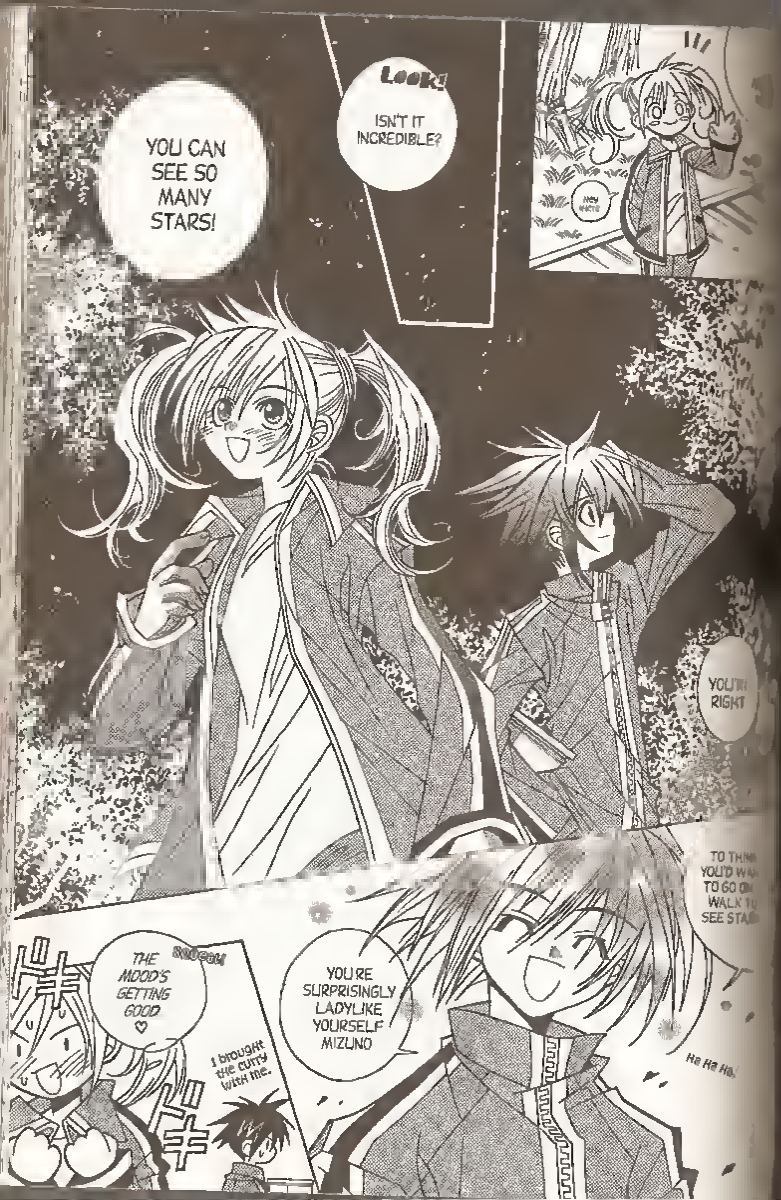
HEY!! KNOCK THAT OFF!!
mumur mumur
GYAAAAHH!!
MISS..
..HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A BASKET OF CURRY INGREDIENTS FOR 500 YEN?
EEEEEP!
MY LONG-AWAITED CAMPING TRIP!
Yaaay!
SUCH NICE WEATHER.
SUCH BEAUTIFUL SCENERY!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WASHING THE RICE!
LOOK OUT BEHIND
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MIZUNO?
WOW, MIZUNO YOU'RE SO LADYLIKE
ALL RIGHT!
FIRST!! I APPEAL TO HIM WITH MY COOKING!
HERE. AN ONION
AH
THANKS.
CAMPING WITH RIKU!!
MAYBE WE CAN FINALLY TAKE OUR FRIENDSHIP TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

TODAY...
...AS GROUP LEADER, I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT MY GROUP'S CURRY!
Sense of Duty
THIS TIME, THERE'S NO VISITING AND NO PEDDLING!
And no throwing around garbage!
I CAN'T EVEN HAVE A TASTE?!
SHOOCK
His own plate
NO!!
STAY OUT OF THE WAY, PLEASE.
GRRR!
HEY, RIKU!
We were in the way...?
Riku has such a strong sense of responsibility
Want to have a barbecue on the dry riverbed?
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT?! YOUR FAMILY OR YOUR CURRY?!
Just once in your life!
Sheesh!
WELL OF COURSE WE'RE HERE.
SHI! AND SATSUKI AND FUTABA AND ICHIYA-SAN! WHAT ARE ALL OF YOU DOING HERE?!
even Mikasa!
WE'LL HELP.
And, WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WE'LL DO SOME BUSINESS, TOO ♡
Has for some reason
Camping Guide
Give me the garbage!
WE JUST HAD TO ♡
...COME SEE OUR LITTLE RIKU MAKE CURRY
カレー
.....
We took time off from the store. ♡

OH, MAN
I TOLD YOU I DON'T UNDER STAND!
MAN, YOU'RE VIOLENT!
Umm?
NACH
NACH
NACH
WHAT ARE THEY STARTING?
LET'S MAKE THIS CURRY
NEVER MIND HIM ☆
YOU'D BETTER REMEMBER THIS THE NEXT TIME! SEE YOU, RIKU!
SEE YOU LATER, RIKU.
HE'S STILL SAYING SOME THING.
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE GOING HOME, SATSUKI
AH
Good Luck, Riku!
?!
LET'S EAT! ♡
Too much.
Just a little.

TODAY CURRY!
HOW DARE YOU DISRESPECT YOUR BROTHERS?!
NO WAY!
EEEH?
Let go!
How much do you like curry?!
RIKU'S HAVING A FIGHT WITH HIS BROTHER..?
HEY, STOP IT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!!
SHUT UP WOMAN!
Yamatoan
BOTH OF YOU!
?!
IT S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
*Satsuki can't speak Japanese.

Something's weird
HMM?
HEY HEY
DURING OUR FREE TIME AFTER DINNER, DO YOU WANT TO GO ON A WALK JUST THE TWO OF US? ♡
Sure.
WHAT?!
LUCKY COUPLE GOING ON A WALK JUST THE TWO OF THEM. ♡
Spoon
.....
EH?
HUH?
IT TURNED OUT GREAT, RIKU ♪
YAY!
YEAH?
CHATTER
CHATTER
EH?!
RIKU, YOU HARDLY HAVE ANY CURRY!
TINY
WHAT HAPPENED?!
THAT IS I...
I JUST ATE IT SO FAST
EH? NO, THIS IS-!
あせっ


YOU CAN SEE SO MANY STARS!
Look!
ISN'T IT INCREDIBLE?
YOU'RE RIGHT
TO THINK YOU'D WANT TO GO ON A WALK TO SEE STARS
He He He.
YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY LADYLIKE YOURSELF MIZUNO
I brought the curry with me.
Sniff sniff
THE MOOD'S GETTING GOOD ♡

WHAT'LL I DO WITH ALL THIS CURRY?
RIKU!
Keep it in my fridge at the dorms until next time I go to work?
THEY'RE ALL..
BACK IN YAMATO BY NOW ☆

WHY THAT--?!
HE'S NOT LISTENING!!
RIKU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE DONE WITH THE CURRY, SO YOUR BROTHERS ARE ALLOWED BACK IN, RIGHT?
OH.
WE WERE JU GETTIN THE GOO PART!
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO SHOW UP AGAIN?!
EVERYONE TOLD ME TO COME SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING

WE'RE AT CAMP, THE STARS ARE OUT AND I'M ALONE WITH RIKU!
MAYBE TONIGHT I CAN FINALLY ASK HIM WHAT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO
UM, HEY... RIKU.
RIKU, IS THERE...
...SOMEONE YOU LIKE... RIGHT NOW?
HM?
SATSUKI?!
OOH? I SEE.
SATSUKI...

CUT IT OUT, GUYS
NOW, NOW
DON'T STARE AT ME!
danger?
WHAT?! IS THAT DEFIANCE?
...SENSE HOSTILITY
but I don't know what she's saying
WHA...?
THE END

YOU'RE ALL TOO OVER-PROTEC-TIVE!!
YOU'RE STILL MAD?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT ANGRY.
UH-OH.
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, IT'S GONNA BE HARD TO GIVE IT TO HIM.
TCH
YOU AGAIN?
THERE'S THAT MYSTERY LANGUAGE AGAIN.
HMPH!
SATSUKI-KUN YOU'RE FAMILY YOU CAN TALK TO RIKU WHENEVER YOU WANT
SO, RIGHT NOW
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. ☆
JUST A MINUTE, SATSUKI-KUN!!
DID SHE SAY MY NAME?
?

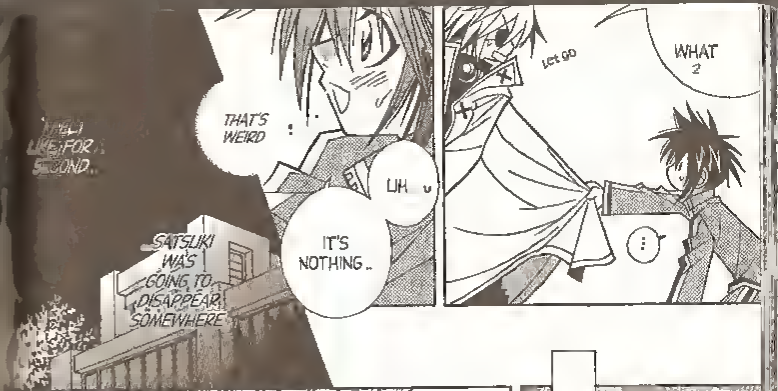
YOU STAY BACK!
SATSUKI-KUN!
ANYWAY I'LL CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!!
I KIND OF UNDERSTOOD..
..WHAT HE SAID JUST NOW
DAAH?!
IS HE CRAZY?

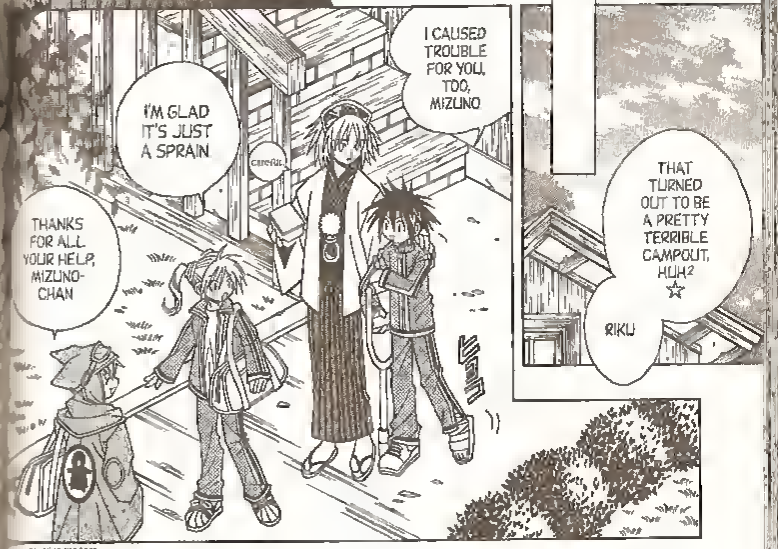
RIKU?!
UWAAAH!
RIKU!!
HUH?

THERE'S A HOSPITAL AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN RIGHT?
I THINK SO.
SATSUKI.
HMM?
YEAH.
IF YOU'D JUST GIVEN ME THE CURRY TO BEGIN WITH, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN HURT
?
I'M SORRY
I MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TOO HARD ON EVERYONE THIS AFTERNOON
YEAH, WELL...
WE PROBABLY ARE OVER-PROTEC-TIVE...
BUT WE'RE ALL...
...WORRIED ABOUT YOU, RIKU.

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
OWWW...
I FELL WITH IT. HA HA HA.
I'M GLAD THE TUPPERWARE'S SO DURABLE.
See, it's all there.
UGH, YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN IN THE BUTT!
SPRAIN
SPRAIN

YOU FINALLY CAME BACK HOME TO HIYOKOYA...
..SO WE'RE AFRAID THAT IF WE TAKE OUR EYES OFF YOU FOR A SECOND, YOU'LL GET LOST AGAIN ☆
I WOULD NOT
HOW OLD am I?
SHEESH
BUT YOU DO FALL IT OF CLIFFS
FOOSH
STING
U SA...
SA-TSUKI!!
I'LL GO TALK TO THE NIGHT RECEPTION IST
STAY THERE
?!
GOOD LUCK
LET'S SEE HERE
Yamatoan Japanese Dictionary

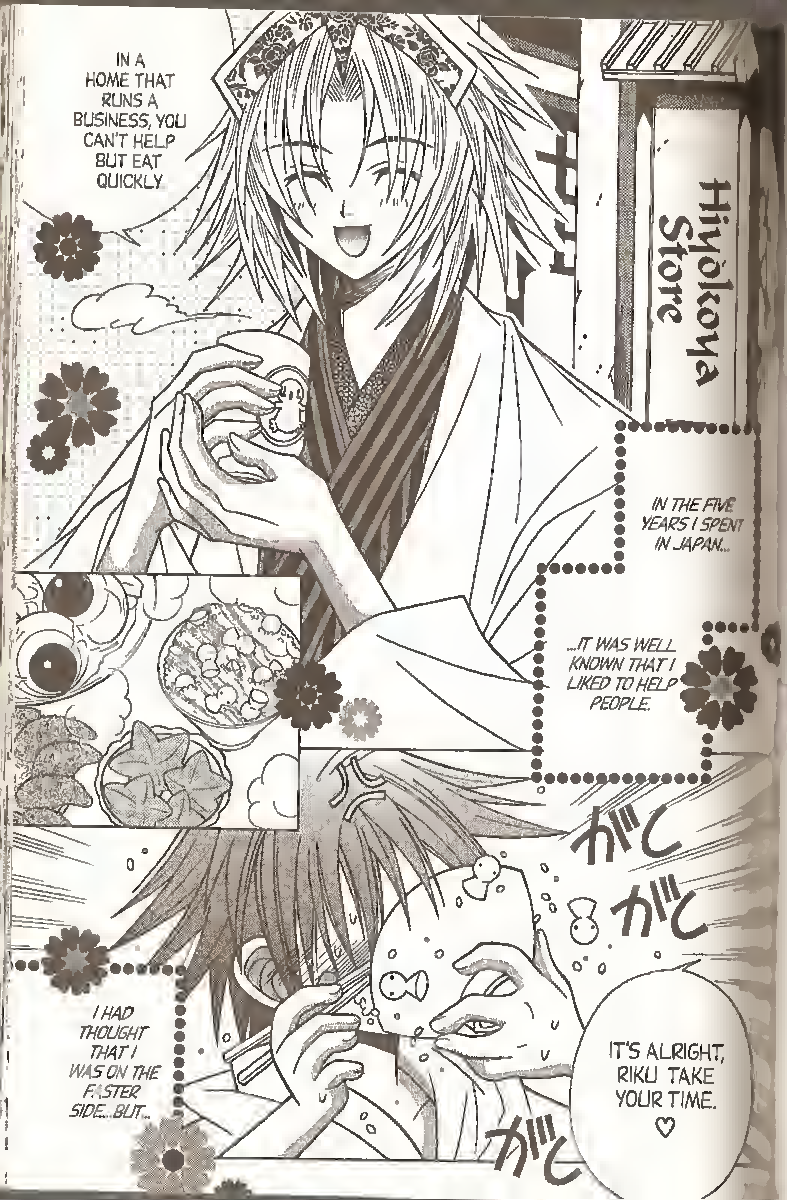


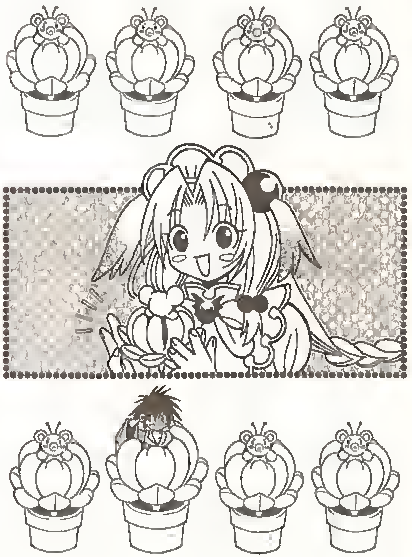

I'M GLAD IT'S JUST A SPRAIN
I CAUSED TROUBLE FOR YOU, TOO, MIZUNO
CAREFUL
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP, MIZUNO-CHAN
THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A PRETTY TERRIBLE CAMPOUT, HUH? ☆
RIKU

Carrying the bags

★ End of Chapter 19 ★

Chapter 20
Demon Blade: Yamizakura
HIYOKO


IN A HOME THAT RUNS A BUSINESS, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT EAT QUICKLY.
Hiyokoya Store
IN THE FIVE YEARS I SPENT IN JAPAN...
...IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT I LIKED TO HELP PEOPLE.
がし
がし
I HAD THOUGHT THAT I WAS ON THE FASTER SIDE...BUT...
がし
IT'S ALRIGHT, RIKU. TAKE YOUR TIME. ♡



HEH.
MY STUPID SPRAIN'S ALMOST HEALED!
I DID NEED YOUR HELP BACK THERE, SATSUKI, BUT
I'M USED TO CLEANING UP AFTER MY KID BROTHER, RIKU
DANG IT!!
HURRY AND EAT, RIKU TURTLE!
DON'T ACT SO SUPERIOR!
WE'RE THE SAME AGE!
ERGH!

I'M ALWAYS TREATED LIKE THE TAG-ALONG LITTLE BROTHER--LAST AT EVERYTHING.
MAYBE IT WAS DANGEROUS TO LET RIKU EAT BEANS
AT HIYOKOYA..
KEH KEH KEH!
LAST TO FINISH EATING HAS TO WASH THE DISHES.
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
Have some water.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU RUSH LIKE THAT
IF YOU RUSH, YOU'LL FALL DOWN A CLIFF AGAIN!
FURTHER MORE..
Make sure you eat enough.
IF YOU'RE PICKY, YOUR SPRAIN WON'T HEAL
My food!
Hey!
AAAHH!
I'LL HELP
BECAUSE OF THAT, THEY'VE BEEN SPURRED ON EVEN MORE.
I was carried to the hospital by Satsuki
due to a stupid accident
..AFTER I MESSED UP AT CAMP..

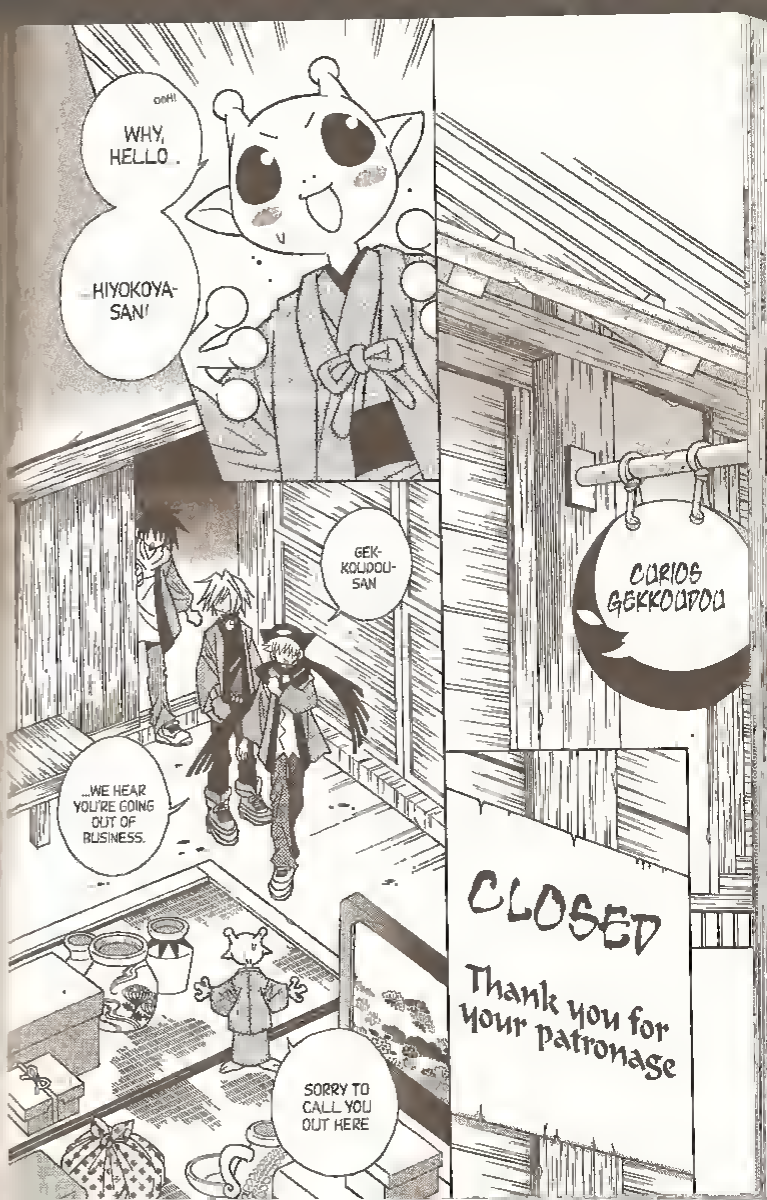
I'M NOT THE ONLY SLOW ONE.
YEAH. IT'S TRUE. I'M SENSITIVE TO HOT FOODS
I'M GLAD
MIO'S NOT GOOD AT HOT FOODS
BUT IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO GO SLOW..
..BECAUSE I'M THE GREAT HEAD-CLERK
QUIT THAT SLUGGISH EATING AND GET TO WORK, PART-TIMER!!
HIIISSS!
COOLER
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
DANG IT.

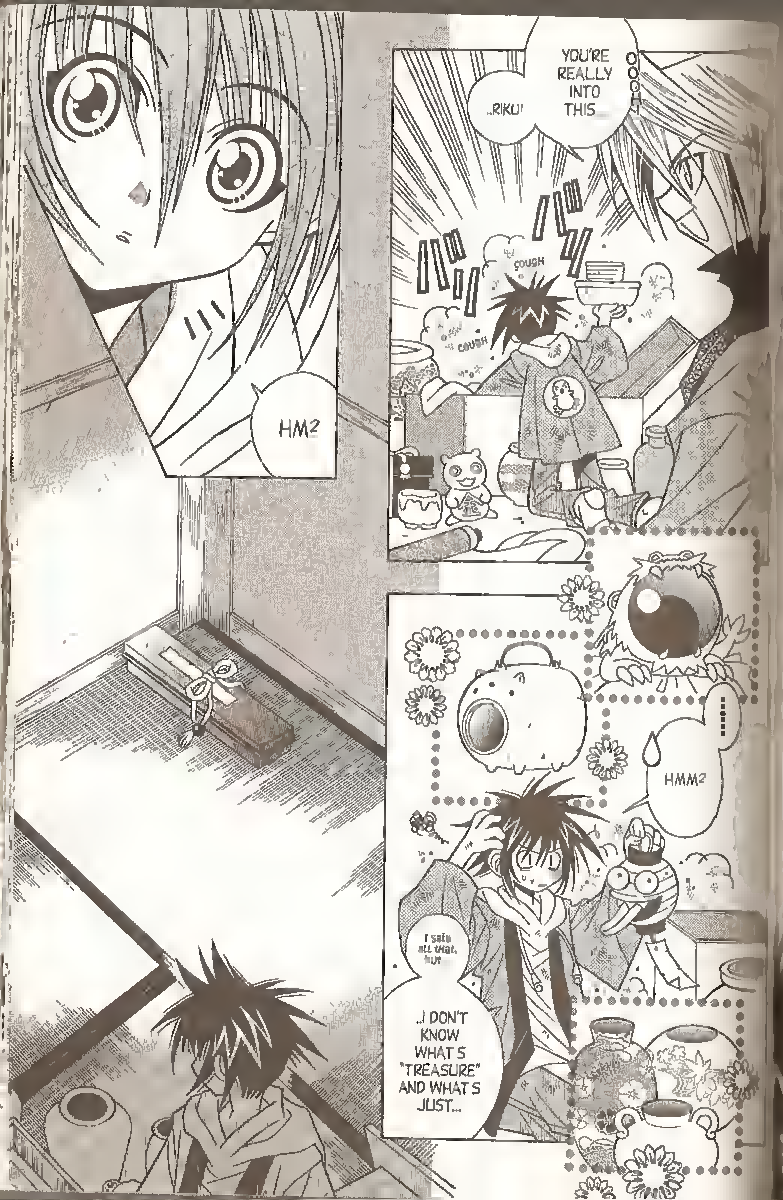
NN?
I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE, ANYWAY!!
I'M NOT USED TO EATING FOOD LIKE THIS.
HUH?
YOU'RE STILL EATING TOO, MIO?
OH! HE'S GOT A CAT TONGUE!!
WAITING FOR IT TO COOL
.....
ほか
ほか
ほか

Got some time to eat on the way
SATSUKI'S THE SAME AGE AS ME...
...SO THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN ACT AS MY SUPERIOR!
I HAVE TO WORK HARD AT OUR JOB!
Would you like some tea, pepper?
Uwaaaa!
He sure is delicious.
Sweet sake!
LOOKS PRETTY IFFY TO ME
DOES NOT!
MESS
Wheeze!
You okay?
Pant!

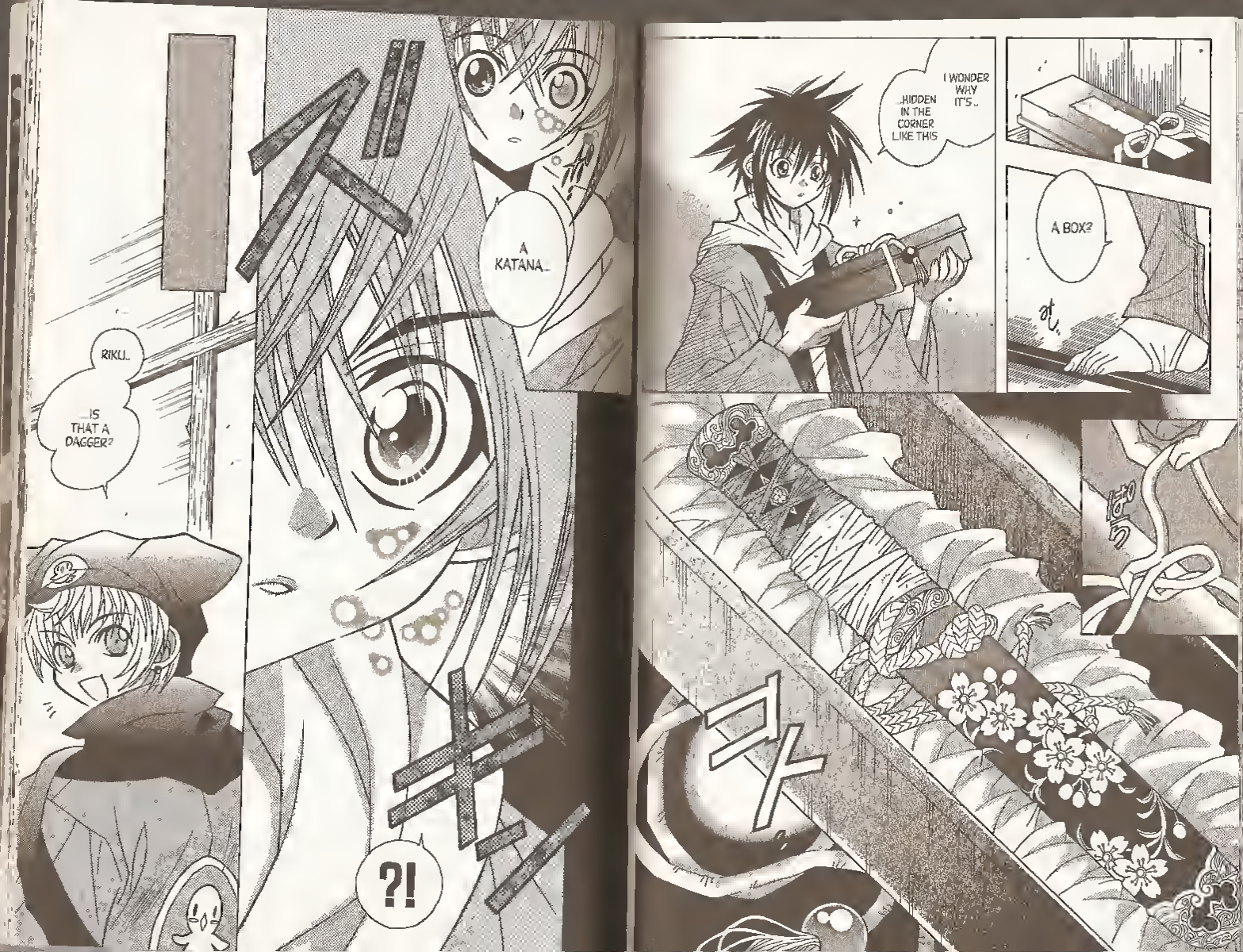
...FIRST, IT SEEMS WE HAVE BUSINESS...
...AT ANOTHER SHOP.
TO-DAY...
DON'T GET LOST!
I WON'T!
RIKU!

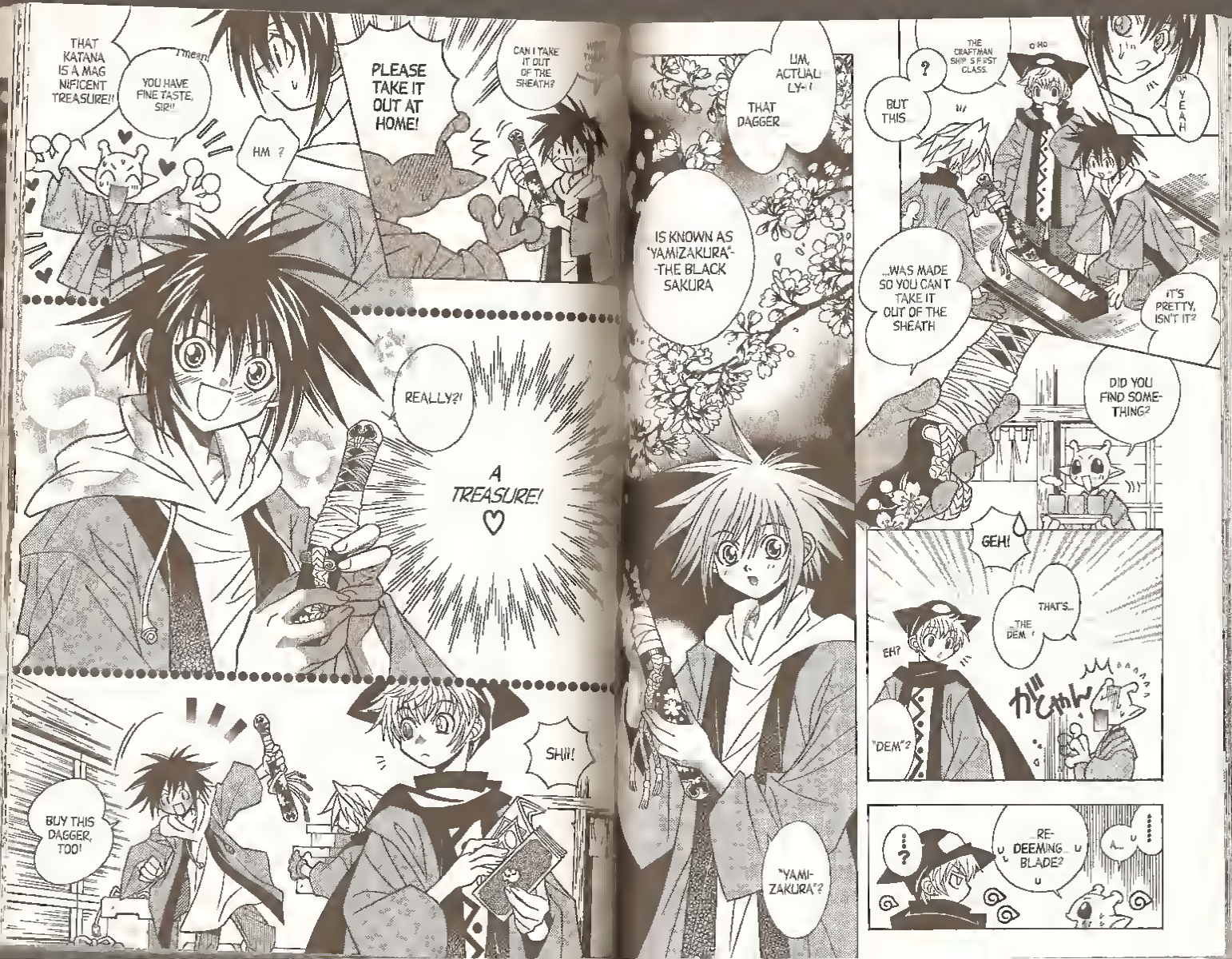
I'VE CLOSED THE SHOP, BUT WE STILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CURIOS LEFT TO BE SOLD
IT'S MOST DREADFUL!
THAT DOES SOUND LIKE A PROBLEM.
I WAS HOPING
...YOU MIGHT BUY AT LEAST A FEW ITEMS, HIYOKOYA.
TA-DAH!
WE'LL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS WE CAN. ♡


OOH!
WHY, HELLO.
...HIYOKOYA-SAN!
GEK-KOUDOU-SAN
...WE HEAR YOU'RE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS.
SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT HERE
CURIOS GEKKOUDOU
CLOSED
Thank you for your patronage

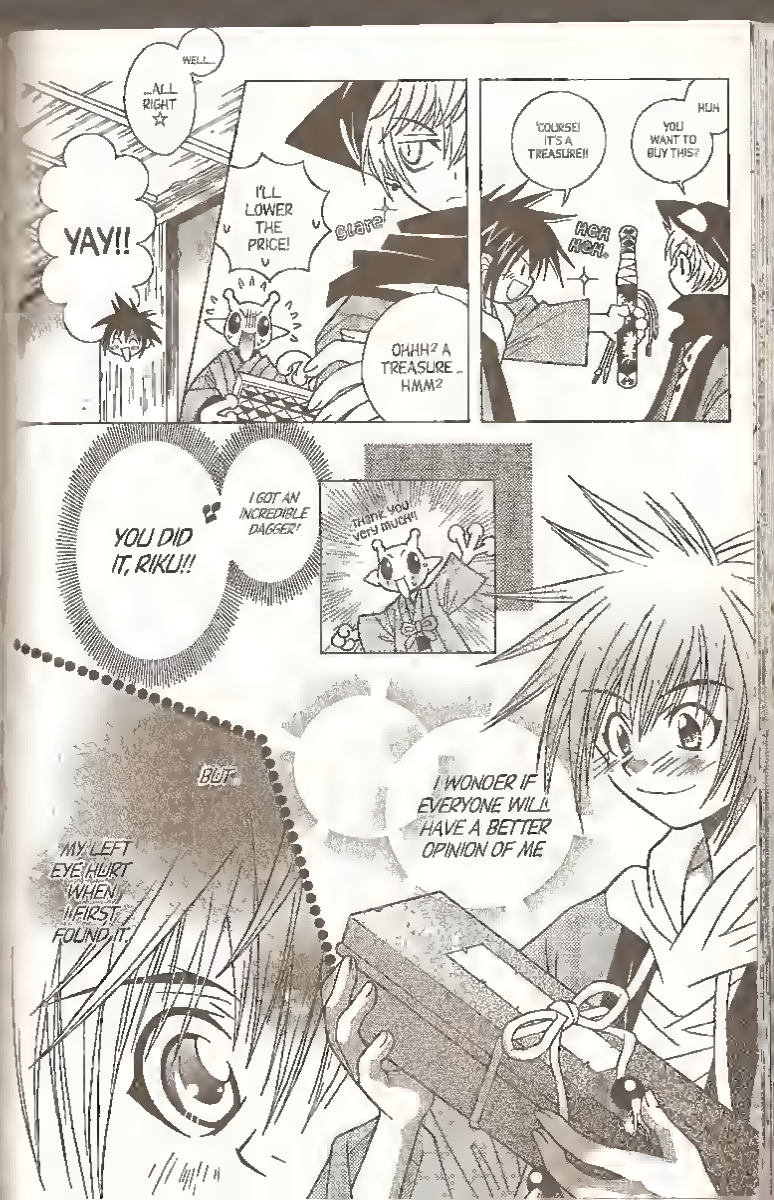

HM?
YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS...
..RIKU!
COUGH
COUGH
HMM?
I said all that, but
..I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S "TREASURE" AND WHAT'S JUST...

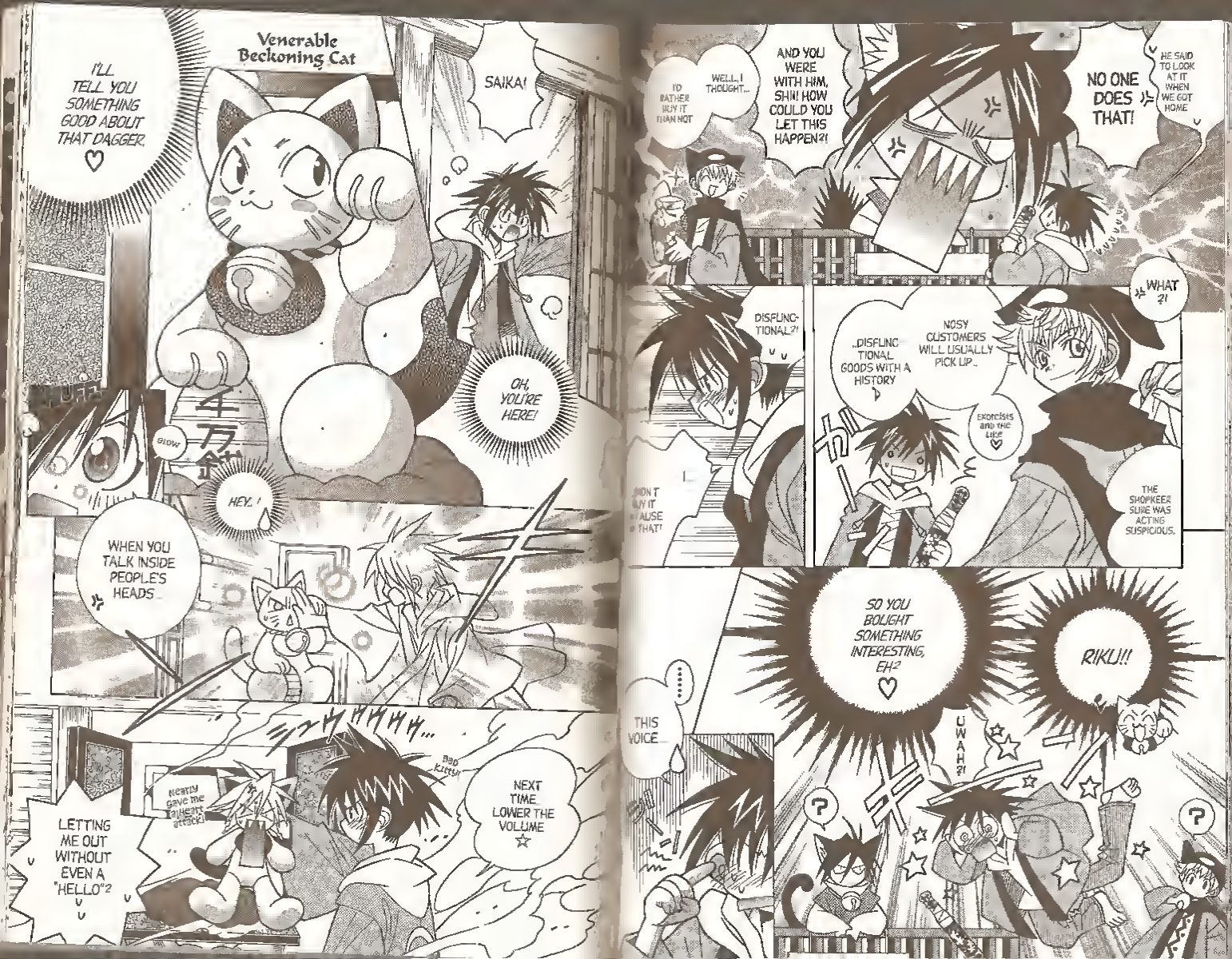
OH!
YOU TWO SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE MERCHANDISE, TOO SATSUKI RIKU
EH?!
BUT I DON'T KNOW THING ABOUT CURIOS!
CURIO APPRAISAL?!
That is one bear's cub.
D-HOW
THAT'S OUR SHI!!!
NO FIGHTING SPIRIT
Look at this!
WHOA! THIS MASK IS WEIRD COOL!
THIS IS NO TIME TO TRY AND BACK OUT!!
I'LL UNEARTH A TREASURE TROVE!
I'LL SHOW THEM THAT I'M JUST AS GOOD AS EVERYBODY ELSE!
THAT'S RIGHT!


I WONDER WHY IT'S..
..HIDDEN IN THE CORNER LIKE THIS
A BOX?
A KATANA..
RIKU..
..IS THAT A DAGGER?
?!


THAT KATANA IS A MAG NIFICENT TREASURE!!
I mean!
YOU HAVE FINE TASTE, SIR!!
HM ?
PLEASE TAKE IT OUT AT HOME!
CAN I TAKE IT OUT OF THE SHEATH?
REALLY?!
A TREASURE! ♡
SHH!
BUY THIS DAGGER, TOO!
UM, ACTUALLY-!
THAT DAGGER
IS KNOWN AS "YAMIZAKURA" -THE BLACK SAKURA
"YAMI-ZAKURA"?
THE CRAFTMAN SHIP S F IRST CLASS.
BUT THIS...
...WAS MADE SO YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT OF THE SHEATH
YEAH
IT'S PRETTY, ISN'T IT?
DID YOU FIND SOME-THING?
GEH!
THAT'S... ...THE DEM !
EH?
"DEM"?
RE-DEEMING BLADE?

I WONDER...
...WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?
YO KO YA
TODAY, RIKU WAS AWFULLY ENTHUSIASTIC.
STUPID MORON.
YOU BOUGHT A DAGGER WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT THE BLADE?
Good work, Riku!!
I'M SURE WE CAN SELL IT.
WHAT A PRETTY DAGGER! GOOD JOB FINDING IT, RIKU!
WAH!


WELL...
...ALL RIGHT ☆
YAY!!
I'LL LOWER THE PRICE!
SIGH?
OHHH? A TREASURE... HMM?
'COURSE! IT'S A TREASURE!!
HUH
YOU WANT TO BUY THIS?
HEH HEH.
YOU DID IT, RIKU!!
I GOT AN INCREDIBLE DAGGER!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
BUT...
MY LEFT EYE HURT WHEN I FIRST FOUND IT.
I WONDER IF EVERYONE WILL HAVE A BETTER OPINION OF ME

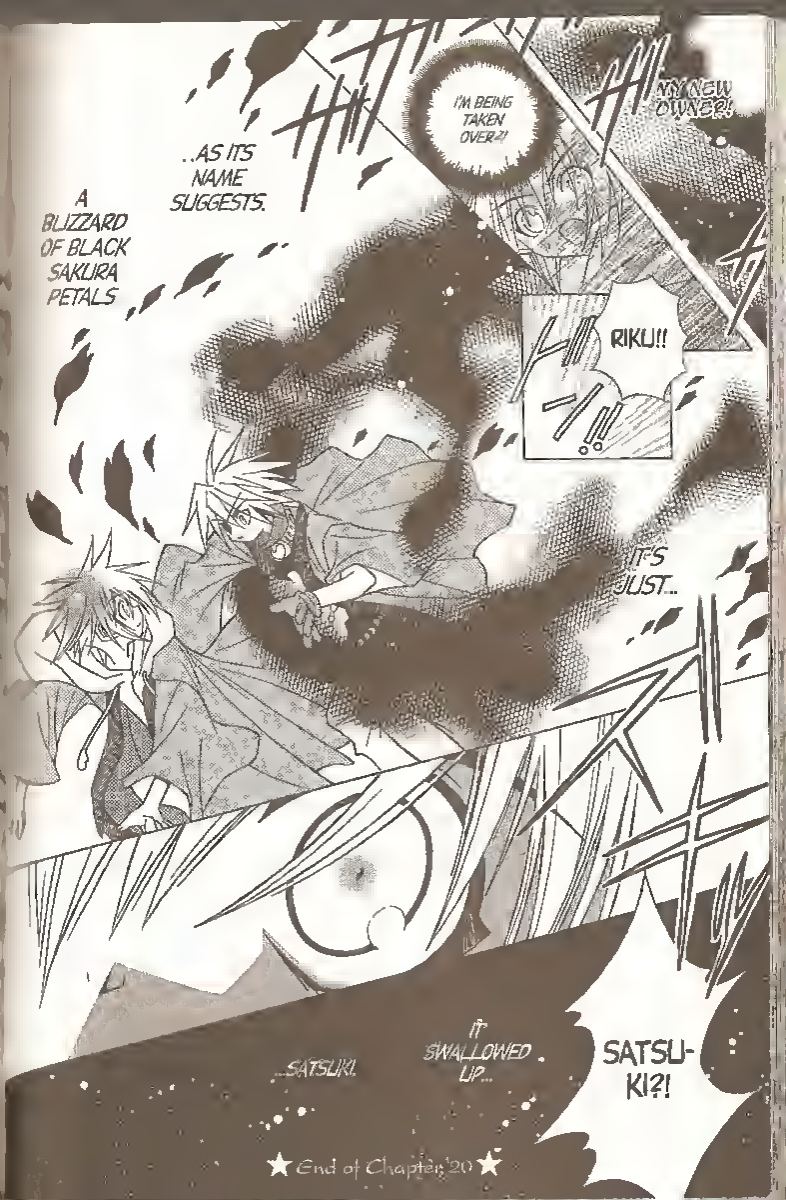

Venerable Beckoning Cat
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT THAT DAGGER.
SAIKA!
OH, YOU'RE HERE!
GLOW
HEY..!
WHEN YOU TALK INSIDE PEOPLE'S HEADS...
LETTING ME OUT WITHOUT EVEN A "HELLO"?
Nearly gave me [illegible] attack!
Bad kitty!
NEXT TIME... LOWER THE VOLUME
I'D RATHER BUY IT THAN NOT
WELL..I THOUGHT...
AND YOU WERE WITH HIM, SHIN! HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?!
NO ONE DOES THAT!
HE SAID TO LOOK AT IT WHEN WE GOT HOME
DISFUNCTIONAL?!
I... DON'T BUY IT BECAUSE OF THAT!
..DISFUNCTIONAL GOODS WITH A HISTORY
NOSY CUSTOMERS WILL USUALLY PICK UP...
EXORCISMS AND THE LIKE
WHAT?!
THE SHOPKEEP SURE WAS ACTING SUSPICIOUS.
SO YOU BOUGHT SOMETHING INTERESTING, EH?
THIS VOICE...
RIKU!!
UWAH?!

RIKU...
GIVE IT TO ME I'LL GO RETURN IT.
DON'T QUESTION THE GREAT HOLY SPIRIT'S INSIGHT
ARE YOU SURE SAIKA?
Head Clerk Only
IT'S A HOLY-SPIRIT STONE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
.....
WHA..?
!
IF IT'S A BAD GUY...
.....
...YOU'LL BE IN DANGER.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF HOLY SPIRIT IS INSIDE THE DAGGER
GOOD GRIEF TO THINK, THAT WAS ITS BACK STORY

THE KATANA, THE KATANA!
WELL? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A HOLY-SPIRIT STONE
THAT DAGGER IS MADE OF HOLY-SPIRIT STONE.
EH?
YAMIZAKURA IS A HOLY-SPIRIT STONE?!

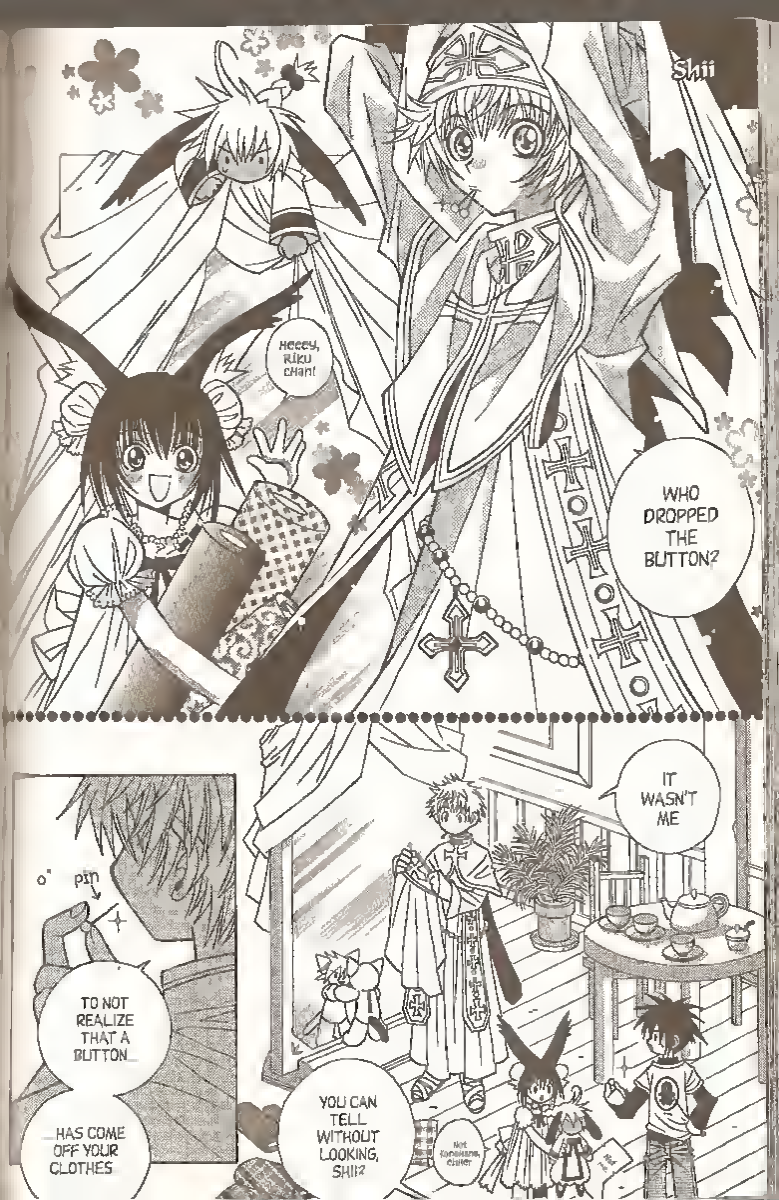
I'LL BE FINE.
I FOUND YOU...
WHA ?
WHO IS THIS?
THIS IS BAD
IT WAS LET OUT OF THE STONE.
THE HOLY SPIRIT.
DON'T TELL ME IT'S...
I'LL BE FINE...!

NO!
I'LL BE FINE!
GIVE IT TO ME.
come on
DON'T THINK THAT ALL HOLY SPIRITS ARE AS PUNY AND PATHETIC AS SAIKA
WHAT WAS THAT?!
I WILL...
THAT'S ENOUGH!
GIVE IT UP!
WHEN IT WAS SAIKA--
...WHAT TO DO!!
I FINALLY THOUGHT EVERYONE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE ME..!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME..
I'LL BE FINE JUST WATCH
What are you doing?!
AS LONG AS I DON'T TOUCH THE BLADE, THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN'T COME OUT.
RIKU?!
JUST A-!



★End of Chapter 20★

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A SHINTO PRIESTESS THE NEXT TIME, RIKU
OH, I SEE
...WITH ME, THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.
LOVES CLOTHES
MORE IMPOR TANTLY, RIKU...
...RIGHT NOW, I'M MAKING OUR OUTFITS FOR THE NEXT TIME WE INFILTRATE GENROKU CASTLE
WE'RE SORRY
DON'T YOU THINK A CAT COSTUME WOULD BE GOOD?
I have a dancing girl, too!
TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU!
WE'RE LEAVING, SAIKA!
KNOCK
SATSUKI!
Satsuki

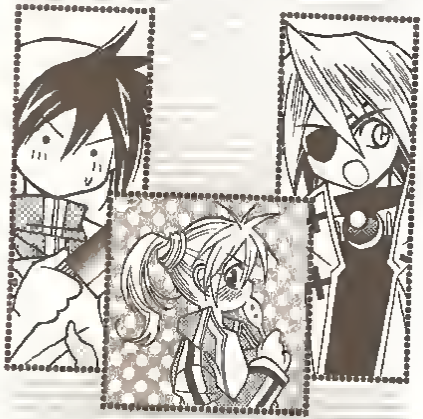

Shii
Heeey, RIKU chan!
WHO DROPPED THE BUTTON?
IT WASN'T ME
pin
TO NOT REALIZE THAT A BUTTON...
...HAS COME OFF YOUR CLOTHES
YOU CAN TELL WITHOUT LOOKING, SHII?
Not tomorrow, either.

A BUTTON?
THOSE ARE A PAIN I DON'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES WITH BUTTONS ☆
GUH THIS IS A DISASTER ZONE!
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
Like... a button?
WHAT? MY ROOM'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
pulling stuff up from wherever
Ichiya
Well!
I'M GOING..
I can swim in this otoom ✿
...TO GO WORK UP A SWEAT AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD DOJO!
Wanna come Kiku?

UWAAAH!!
I'M COMING IN—
SATSUKI? YOU HERE?
He's here!
SATSU-KI?!
DANG I SLEPT IN MY CLOTHES
scratch
NYUM. NYUM.
He's alive!
MORNING?
WERE YOU ROBBED?!
This is terrible!
WAS IT A THIEF?!

Forget about me!
Right back at you.
I DON'T HAVE TO GET MARRIED YET!
YET?
YOU'RE ALREADY 24 YEARS OLD YOU NEED TO HURRY AND...
Fotemise bride photos
OH!
ICHIYA-SAN! THERE YOU ARE!
103.
The Nakamata clan lives long
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
MIO
RIKU
TRIP
THIS BUTTON IS--
WAH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OW!
OH, NO! THE BUTTON!
LOUNGE
LOUNGE
LOUNGE

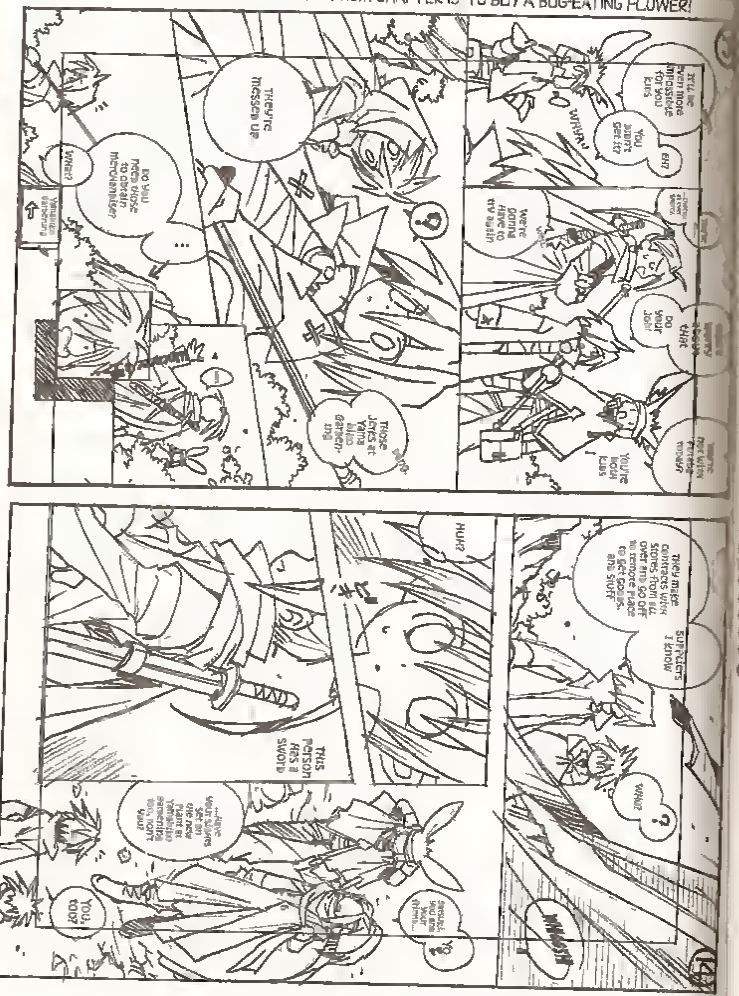
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
SPLISH
THIS IS THE THIRD CANDIDATE FOR YOUR BRIDE TO BE.
AND...
SHE'S TWENTY THIS YEAR AND A MASTER OF THE TEA CEREMONY HER HOBBIES ARE...
ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?!
When did there get to be so many cats?
Gimme!
Gimme!
Gimme!
Gimme!
.....



AAAH!
CHOMP
?
..THE OWNER OF THE BUTTON REMAINS A MYSTERY
EH?
SO, IN THE END
JUST A HUNCH.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, ICHIYA SAN?
BUTTON?
CROWS LOVE SHINY THINGS
THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING FROM MY COLLECTION!
かぜ
FLAP
IT BELONGED TO MIKASA ☆
Box of Shiny Things

Greetings From a Discarded Storyboard!

PRESENTING A DISCARDED STORYBOARD FROM CHAPTER 15 TO BUY A BUG-EATING FLOWER!



※ Turn the page sideways and start reading here! ※

POSTSCRIPT

Hello, everyone, Hello! This is Yuriko Suda♡ and I'm happy to present *Pick of the Litter volume 3*.♡Did you enjoy it? Thank you for picking it up!♡

Volume 3 is almost all stand-alone chapters.☆ This is the result of not letting all the brothers show up very much in volume 2. It was fun getting to draw different kinds of stories.♡ (And Saika's not in it at all. Well, maybe one.)

This time, I drew a chapter cover page for this volume that I didn't finish in time for it to be published in the original manga magazine. Maybe all the people who knew about the magazine version looked forward to it... I hope? No matter how hard I try, I just draw so slow! It's a real problem. I'll continue to try my hardest.♡Please keep reading *Pick of the Litter*!♡

Well, then! I would love to meet again in the next volume♡

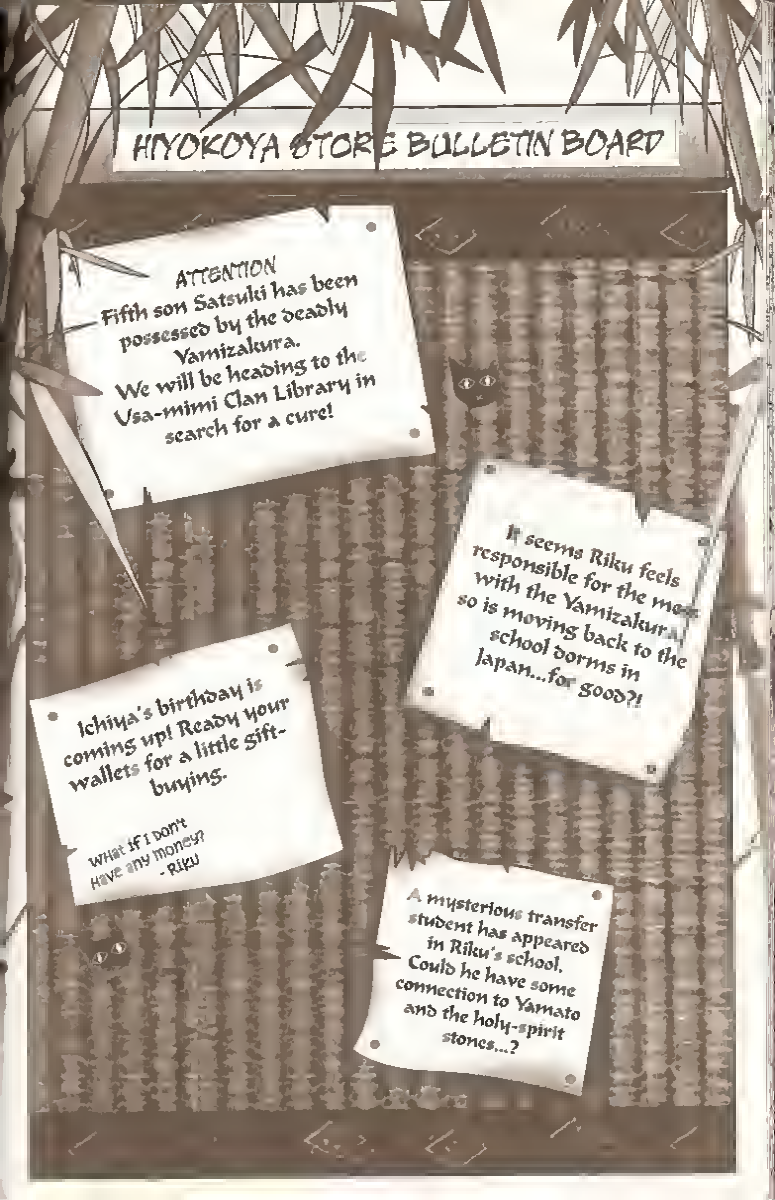
Thank you for reading!

Lucky Day, February '05

SPECIAL ♡ THANKS!♡

Nano. T sama
Yumiko. D sama
Izumi. M sama

KITADA sama
WATANABE sama
SHIMADA sama


HIYOKOYA STORE BULLETIN BOARD
ATTENTION
Fifth son Satsuki has been possessed by the deadly Yamizakura.
We will be heading to the Usa-mimi Clan Library in search for a cure!
It seems Riku feels responsible for the mess with the Yamizakura, so is moving back to the school dorms in Japan...for good?!
Ichiya's birthday is coming up! Ready your wallets for a little gift-buying.
What if I don't have any money?
-Riku
A mysterious transfer student has appeared in Riku's school. Could he have some connection to Yamato and the holy-spirit stones...?